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Thursday, November 27, 2025

Christmas events planned in Otsego, Plainwell

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

The song "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas" was originally recorded by Perry Como in 1951.

Nearly three-quarters of a century later, that classic holiday tune could be the theme for Plainwell and Otsego beginning Friday, Dec. 5.

The City of Plainwell will host its annual Light Up the Night tree-lighting event that evening, with its Christmas parade taking place the following afternoon.

Also on Saturday, Dec. 6, the City of Otsego will host its Hometown Christmas celebration that has become a favorite for many local residents.

Among those who have a particular fondness for Hometown Christmas is Otsego mayor Stacey Withee.

"This is my favorite event of the year and that fact that our wonderful sponsors and civic partners make it a free event for everyone to attend is what makes it so special," she said.

Withee previously compared Hometown Christmas to stepping into a scene from a Hallmark Christmas movie.

"This event is special," Withee said. "For anyone who ever wished they could find themselves in a Christmas movie from that popular TV channel, Hometown Christmas brings a little bit of that spirit.

"There is community, happy children, a chance to gather together and Santa making his appearance at the end of the parade, culminating in lighting the tree."

The group Together Otsego Prospers takes the lead when it comes to organizing the event.

"We can't wait to celebrate with you," the group said in a social media post.

Hometown Christmas begins at noon with the Holiday Farmers Market at the Otsego Church of God. The market will remain open until 6 p.m., which is when the Christmas parade will start along M-89 through downtown Otsego.

The parade will start near Kalamazoo Street, heading east on M-89, before turning north on Fair Street and concluding by heading west on Court Street.

Other events include:

* Community dinner at the pavilion from 4 to 5:30 p.m.
* Hayrides along the riverfront from 4 to 5:30 p.m.
* Hand bell performances at the pavilion from 4 to 6 p.m.
* Wandering carolers from 4 to 6 p.m.
* Food trucks from 4 to 7 p.m.
* Firepit warming stations at the pavilion from 4 to 7 p.m.
* Photo area from 4 to 7:30 p.m.
* Donation collection from 4 to 8 p.m.
* Cider and donuts at the pavilion from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
* Hot chocolate at the pavilion from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
* Santa visits at the pavilion from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
* Live nativity at the pavilion from 4:45 and 5:15 p.m.
* Tree lighting at the pavilion area at 6:30 p.m.

In Plainwell, meanwhile, Light Up the Night activities begin at 4 p.m. with live music. Attendees are encouraged to stroll through the festively decorated downtown area to enjoy the local shops.

From 6:30 to 7 p.m., the Plainwell High School Honors Choir will sing carols on Brooks Plaza close to Hicks Park.

And at 7 p.m., this year's Christmas tree will officially be lit, with Santa Claus available for visits afterward at the Ace Hardware Santa House.

Plainwell's Christmas parade is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 6, at 1 p.m., starting at 211 N. Main Street and making its way through the downtown area.

The crowd from last year's Light Up the Night in Plainwell is seen waiting for the Christmas tree to be lit. (File photo)

Creviston returns to OHS to perform with band Dec. 4

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Music lovers, mark you calendars for Thursday, Dec. 4.

That's when professional soprano saxophonist Dr. Chris Creviston will join the Otsego High School band—under the direction of band director Mitch Piersma—for a very special performance.

Creviston and the OHS band will be premiering a piece from composer Mischa Zupko titled "Azure Sky" before it is made available to the public.

Making the event even more special is that both Creviston (Class of 1986) and Zupko are alumni of Otsego High School.

"We are very excited to have Dr. Creviston return to his hometown," Piersma said. "He is a phenomenal player and instructor and does not get back to Michigan very much. So, it means a lot that he can do this in his busy schedule."

Creviston, who received his bachelor of music from Michigan State University before earning his master of music and doctor of music arts degrees from the University of Michigan, is a professor of saxophone at Arizona State University

"In addition to having a lot of college responsibilities, Dr. Creviston is also the soprano saxophone player for the Capitol Quartet, a professional saxophone quartet that tours and performs together," Piersma said.

A few years ago, Creviston approached Piersma with the idea of having the OHS band join a consortium with other schools. The schools in this consortium—which also includes Mountain Ridge High School in Arizona and Niskayuna High School in New York—would then pay to have a piece commissioned for them.

All of the schools involved have original rights to perform it before it goes public.

"The idea for us was to apply for a performance at the Michigan Music Conference held at DeVos Place in January, and also have a hometown performance," Piersma said. "We did not get accepted this year for MMC, but will try again next year.

"However, we are going to do the hometown performance on Dec. 4, with Dr. Creviston performing the solo part to 'Azure Sky.'"

"Azure Sky" is a concerto for saxophone and band.

In addition to performing with the OHS band, Creviston will also hold a master class with the band's saxophone players while back in his hometown.

He did something similar in 2014.

"I remember he worked with individual students," Piersma said. "Some wanted one on one time, and others just wanted to watch. But the stage was filled with saxophone players.

"I imagine he will do a similar format again."

The performance on Dec. 4 is open to the public, with Piersma urging community members to come out and watch the OHS band with one of its most successful alumni.

"We'd love to have as many people there as possible," Piersma said.

Dr. Chris Creviston, a 1986 OHS graduate, will perform with the OHS band. (Photo provided)

OHS alum Mischa Zupko composed the piece "Azure Sky" that will be performed by the OHS band. (Photo provided)

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Families need help this holiday season

The following letters are just a few of the dozens we have received. The deadline to submit letters for help is on December 7th. You must include your name, address and a phone number to be eligible. If you need help OR are interested in donating to the Christmas Wish Program, you can do so by mailing PO Box 189, Allegan MI 49010 or email wilcoxnewspapers@ gmail.com. Call to donate- 269-657-5080, 989-386-4414

Never thought I'd have to ask for help at Christmas again. My grand daughters are 4 months and my oldest is 7 years old if you can help again this Christmas.Thank you if you can. Both of my daughters are on disability and don't have a lot of money to keep up with the cost of living and such. Thank you again

This is my daughters last Christmas as a teen, I want to be able to give her a good one. I'm a single mom on a SSI income of one which isn't much. I also took in a friend who came from a pretty bad domestic violence situation and money has been even tighter. My daughter is big into horror, screen writing, dark goth makeup, the franchise scream and Frankenstein. She wants to go to school for film and she love to write and is really good at it too. I know since she's 17 we probably will get overlooked and I'm sure there are many other children who deserve this as well but we would truly appreciate the help. Her dad hasn't been in her life since she was 7 so there is absolutely no help there or from his side of the family. We make due but it would be nice for her to get at least one thing for Christmas other then the very little I can do. I appreciate the opportunity to write in if anything.

We are writing ahead to register and seek help at Christmas this year. We are struggling this year as we lost some family members. In March he died with his heart. Also my mom is struggling with dialysis, been in the hospital a few times with her heart. We are struggling not having the kids dad too. He feels lonely missing his dad, he's only 13. Just asking for any help you could donate us to help at Christmas. We don't have his dads help anymore. As well so we will struggle, with my mom sickness and the kids struggle being upset over his dad. We are very thankful for any donation, your organization is very loving and caring in helping people! Thank you for your help.

Hello I am a mother of 2 children, a boy (8) & a girl (10). I am a wife of a recent amputee. My husband a year ago went through a very unfortunate event, a motorcycle accident and experienced a below the knee amputation. My husband has gone through 2 prosthetics this year, now he needs a 3rd one unfortunately as his nub has shrunk big time and his prosthetic is way too big for him. Due to it being so big it hurts him when he walks because he has to wear up to 20 Ply Socks to compensate the gap in his prosthetic. Due to us having to get another prosthetic I have to save as much money as possible because insurance does not want to cover it as this is #3 for the year.. As we have to do this, I am not looking forward to Christmas time for both our children, our dog. After the year we have had I really wish we could make our Christmas special, we could always use the cheering up & to stress a little less. I just want to be able to get my husband a prosthetic and to make my 2 kids happy Christmas day. Thank you so much for reading my email, I hope you have a blessed day!

Good evening, I am writing you because my mom is a little too proud to ask for help. She is a single parent of four kids. She has worked hard in our entire life. She's always had two jobs to be able to provide for all of us. She barely gets support. Recently, she has lost both of her jobs and has been struggling to make ends meet. I listen to her cry at night. She puts all of us kids before her own needs. She pays rent and utilities and pays for a van. Our van needs work. It's been in an accident and she hasn't paid to get it fixed. It needs new brakes. Her and my grandmother fight all the time about how she's gonna cover things. Our family could very much use some assistance. We could use help with getting our rent covered with Christmas for me and my siblings. My mom could use assistance for herself. She hasn't done anything for herself in a very long time.

My husband,son,parents and myself could definitely use little holiday cheer. Year started with my son totalling his car in accident on way work. Following month got covid so he was fired for missing days. Next job he got fired he missed days cause he ended up getting lyme disease unfortunately. My husband only works part time cause of kidney disease. I don't work cause I take care of him and my parents. And everything around house. My parents lost their health insurance cause I guess SSI they make too much. None of us get food stamps. Then to top of the year. Last Tuesday I was in my first accident and my car was totaled. It's been extremely rough year. We aren't type of family that believe in having gifts to unwrap. Holidays are spending time.with each other. Having get together family meal. As long as we have food in house, gas in car and of course can't forget our 2 other members 2 kitties. Family means more then material things. Thank you amd merry Christmas

It is that time of year again. We are sorry to ask for help again. We did ask for help last year but did not receive it. We do find our selves in the position of needing help more than ever this year. Myself and my husband are grandparents going on 60 and 70 years old and are raising 2 grand children. One of which we have adopted, the other we are fostering as sadly his dad is in prison for another 2 years and his mother is nowhere to be found :(we are doing the best we can but I am now working part time Instead of full time so that we can can get them back and forth to school, get to weekly therapy appointments, attend court hearing and just every day care for the kids and my husband is fully disabled. We don't receive any food assistance or state help. Taking in the grand children, has been life changing but we are doing what needs to be done for their best interest. Blending our two worlds means a lot of sacrifices and a lot of struggles, but we have no choice. We love them. Holidays are the hardest times. It's hard as hell to ask for help, but sometimes we have to swallow our pride and try . So here we are. The kids have been thru a lot and they deserve so much more than life has been for them. We cannot even explain what they have been thru and how much we are dealing with.

Hello I am writing in response to your ad in the paper, I would like to nominate my brother and his family. They are young married couple with the sweetest five year old daughter, they are very deserving people, they work hard and have been faced with some obstacles in life but their love and dedication always persist, my five year old niece is highly autistic and her parents love her and try their best to accommodate her, they are so selfless and wonderful, I know they have been having a serious financial hardship recently as my brothers car is not working and hardly safe to drive (I worry all the time about that for him), but I would love to see them have a wonderful Christmas that I know that cannot provide. I hope that you will be able to gift them the Christmas that I wish I could ,thank you very much.

My sister in law told me to contact you and that you may be able to help. Im on ssdi and have 3 kids. Im not asking for alot really. Im just trying to find someone that could help with propane. We dont heat our home conventionally. We use one of those barbecue grill size propane tanks. It's less than 20$ to fill it and can last 3 days on low. I dont get my check til the beginning of December and I still dont know how im going to pull off Christmas. But im more concerned about heat. Anything will help. I have a cash app of that's an option. My mom is also in need. She has cancer, again. And now her eyes are real bad and she needs surgery that's going to run her like 3,000. Maybe you can help her to?

I seen a post about how the paper is helping families this year. I am writing because we have an electric bill through consumers that is around $500. My husband and I both work full time. Although we work full time we're still struggling really bad keeping up on our bills. Mainly the electric (our heat is through the electric) I also haven't had enough money to buy my children coats for winter or my husband and I. So my Christmas wishlist is help with my electric bill. And coats for all of us Mom-3x light weight coat, Dad LG daughter LG, son 2x, son size x-large in boys. I know this is a big ask and please don't feel obligated to help, I know there are a lot of people in need right now. Thank you

I am looking for help, I have been unemployed for over a year now. I have backed up bills. I am a father of 3 boys. 6,3,1. My roof is leaking and my car is in the way out. I am also 2 months behind on my house payment. Don't know what to do.

Good afternoon. I was told you could email this information to you guys and you would possibly help? My family and I are struggling to pay our electric bill. It's $240.68 that we owe, and we are struggling to get it caught up. I am 21 weeks pregnant, struggling with onset preeclampsia and have been in the hospital twice a week for the past few weeks. My husband works, but when I have to go to the hospital he has to stay home with our baby boy (who just turned 1). He doesn't get paid for the days he has to stay home, so his checks have been cut down which make paying bills like this difficult. We have done so good with our life so far.. we are 23/24, married 3 years ago and then had our first son last year, we have been together since highschool (2018).. long story short I just don't want us to fail by starting to fall behind on things. I know people out there have much greater needs than ours, so if you cannot help us that is absolutely understandable. We just appreciate you all taking the time to read this. Thank you so much, happy holidays!

Hello, I found this information from an Allegan County informed page and thought maybe it wouldn't hurt to try. I am a single woman living on a single income (struggling working 2 jobs) I just recently had to have work done on my car so it would run. I have been able to manage paying my $1000.00 rent however being able to afford food and gas has been a struggle. Just to have gas to continue to help get me back and forth to both jobs would be greatly appreciated. I understand that you have probably had a numerous amount of emails flooding your email. And I also understand that you may not be able to help everyone. Anything is always appreciated and very helpful. Thank you for your services and generosity.

Hello, I learned about your Christmas Wish List program through an Allegan County community page. I was told you may be able to assist families experiencing legitimate hardship during the holiday season. I am reaching out because I am in an urgent financial crisis while trying to rebuild stability for myself and my children. I recently moved to Plainwell after 86 days of homelessness, which began following a wrongful eviction from my Kalamazoo apartment that remains under active investigation with a Michigan Department of Civil Rights (MDCR) investigator. My MDCR case has been certified, yet I was evicted on August 7, 2025, despite the pending investigation. In the months leading up to the eviction, I also lost my small business and my downtown Kalamazoo storefront, my primary source of income. Shortly after, my vehicle was repossessed in late June. I spent 7 weeks without transportation, which made it extremely difficult to maintain my income. After the eviction, I purchased another used vehicle on August 13th (five days later) so I could continue searching for housing, attend appointments, and care for my children. I finally paid off that vehicle last week, but it has left me very short on funds for December rent. At this moment, I have less than $100 to my name. Michigan Works PATH paid my first month's rent, and I spent my $400 deposit earlier this year while I was still homeless. I am doing everything possible to rebuild, including applying for SNAP and Cash Assistance through Allegan County DHS (I have completed all verification requirements), but my benefits have not yet started. To help cover basic needs during this time, I have been donating plasma twice a week. I have also visited food pantries twice this month to help with groceries. My usual income source, selling my remaining small-business inventory on Facebook Marketplace, has dropped significantly since the start of the government shutdown, and I have not seen the typical holiday-season increase in sales. This is usually the busiest and most reliable time of year for the home décor and seasonal inventory I sell. Most of my belongings, including our couch and beds for myself and my children, remain in storage because I am behind on the fees that accumulated during homelessness. I paid approximately $560 per month while homeless to keep our belongings safe, but now I cannot catch up enough to retrieve them. I am requesting assistance with any of the following: December rent (most urgent for housing stability), Storage unit fees so I can bring home our beds and belongings, Groceries and basic household necessities. I am not requesting ongoing support; only the assistance I need to get through this critical moment while I wait for my benefits to begin and continue working toward permanent employment. Any help you can provide would mean so much to my children and me as we rebuild after a tough year. I can provide documentation such as my lease, storage statements, identification, or MDCR case information. Thank you sincerely for your time, kindness, and consideration.

Dear Friends and Kind-Hearted Neighbors, as Christmas approaches, I am reaching out with a humble and heartfelt request on behalf of my family of seven. This has been one of the hardest years of our lives, and though it is difficult for me to ask for help, I am doing so for the sake of my children, who deserve a holiday filled with hope and joy.

So as I was scrolling through the allegan county informed I seen a post that was shared about how you guys were offering families assistance for the holidays so I thought I would reach out and ask if you could kindly send any kind of help my way as im in need of a decent vehicle to continue to work as im faceing eviction. I am seeking assistance already for my rent, I am perfectly capable of working and I do part time with the possibility of overtime but I am not able to work overtime due to car pooling with a friend. I feel like a total failure to my 14 year old daughter that resides with me. I can't lose her and my trailer on Christmas. If you can help in any way shape or form id appreciate it more than you'd ever know. Thank you for your time and happy holidays.

Allegan recognizes Family Court and reviews audit

by Gari Voss

Allegan's City Council Mayor Pro Tem Peter Hanse opened the Monday, November 24, 2025, meeting with a proclamation for Family Court Awareness Month. Often Family Court can be overlooked, but it's a safety net that prioritizes child safety when considering that 1 in 3 families in Michigan is exposed to domestic abuse. An estimated 58,000 children in the U.S. are ordered into unsupervised contact with abusive parents each year. Since 2008, almost 1000 children in the U.S. were murdered during a visitation with an abusive parent. During November, the goal is to educate the general public to the judicial system that must use evidence-based research to prioritize the safety and best interest of children.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

During the Public Comments, Allegan County Drain Commissioner Chris Machiela stopped to introduce himself to the council. Then the council was offered a donation to place boulders at Trowbridge Plaza to prevent vehicle/pedestrian accidents. Later the council accepted the offer.

REPORTS

Downtown Development Authority. Assistant City Manager Parker Johnson reviewed that the DDA reviewed the parking lot identifiers and the new stencils on the sidewalks reminding everyone to Walk Your Wheels. The subcommittee for business resource team is a resource for perspective business owners. Team members explain what it is like to have a business in Downtown, and examine the expenses related to opening a business. They have already met with a prospective business owner. The DDA reviewed the downtown events section of the Downtown Master Plan.

Public Spaces Commission. Since the commission did not meet in October, they took time to review the annual parks' tour then discussed the progress on columns at Oakwood Cemetery on Arbor Street. The commission plans to bring a proposal to the Council so they can move forward with the Trowbridge Street columns. Public Works Director Jeff Morrie reviewed the annual tree removal. Johnson shared the Rossman Block Party in September and the parking lot identifiers.

Downtown Development Authority and Planning Commission Joint Meeting. The two groups came together to discuss future plans for Downtown Allegan and the Downtown Allegan Master Plan. This followed the November 13, 2025, Open House where the community could come to City Hall and make suggestions for improvements.

Public Works

Airway Drive Paving. The request to approve payment to Michigan Paving & Materials Co. in the amount of $700,598.05 for the Airway Drive Resurfacing Project was approved. Jeff Morrie shared that this was part of the MDOT TEDF Category F Grant for resurfacing Airway Drive. Of the two bids, Michigan Paving & Materials Co. was 10.29% under the engineer's estimate. Rieth-Riley submitted a bid of $713,550.05. The certificate of insurance and bid bond were included, and Abonmarche Consultants, Inc. found the submittals accurate and in compliance with the bid requirements.

John Deere Backhoe. The request to approve a payment to PowerPlan-John Deere Financial in the amount of $11,968.67, for backhoe repairs was approved. This would cover the repairs done by AIS Construction on the 2017 John Deere Backhoe and would require a budget adjustment in FY26. AIS did extensive repairs to the control valves of the boom functions for the hydraulics in October 2025.

Public Works Achievements in 2025. Morrie did a rundown of the tasks completed during 2025.

Parks: 10 trees were planted, 13 trees were removed, 30 trees were pruned and trimmed. 1,880 ft. of railing was removed, cleaned, powder coated, and replaced on the riverfront boardwalk. On the riverfront, assistance was provided for the new swing construction, Mahan Park reconstruction was completed, and 6 water fountains were maintained in the Kalamazoo River.

Cemetery: 8 cemetery columns on the Arbor Street entrance were rebuilt. 26 foundations were poured, 8 full burials were completed, 20 cremations were completed, and 10 lots were sold.

Motor Vehicle Pool: The city purchased 1 new dump truck, 3 new zero turn mowers, and a new Bobcat Skid-Steer.

Streets: 1.01 miles of Ely Street were resurfaced, and new ADA sidewalk ramps constructed while 210 feet of sidewalks were reconstructed. The Hubbard Street parking lot was reconstructed along with the resurfacing of the Water Street parking lot. Antique Streetlamps had 9 bulbs replaced, and 2 heads replaced and rewired

Airport: The new T-Hangar building was completed and houses 6 planes. The new fuel card reader software was installed and fuel sales for calendar 2025 equals $36,989.41 with 7,188.83 fuel gallons sold. The hangar rental and lease revenue for 2025 was $84,882.00.

Administrative Services

Payments. The request to approve accounts payable in the amount of $386,903.11 and payroll in the amount of $144,300.14 for a total disbursement of $531,203.25 was approved.

Fire District Budget. The request to approve the 2026 Allegan Fire District Budget was approved. Jon Cook, who leads the Fire District Board, reported on the joint fire authority with City of Allegan and Allegan Township. The five-member board created the proposed budget. The two entities make an annual contribution that is paid each quarter over the year. The formula is based on 30% population, 30% for man hours in each entity, and 40% on taxable value.

The Board felt it is time to have more than one full-time person because volunteerism is a struggle. For 2026 the total joint contribution is $543,695.00. This is $143,695.00 higher than 2025. The city will contribute $335,750 and the township will contribute $357,945. Cook shared that calls do not always entail fighting fires. Many are false alarms, medical assists, and lots of vehicle crashes. Training is required. Many firefighters live outside the city. During a daytime call, only 7-9 respond to work the fire. The new budget allows for 3 people to be available during the day. The budget reflects the increase to allow for the new full-time position.

In addition, a new/used tanker/pumper truck is needed. A 2015 truck was located and will replace the 1989 truck with rusted tank issues and worn tires. This will take the old truck out of service, so it can be sold, then replaced with the newer version. The closing date is scheduled for Dec. 19, 2025, and it should be in service by late January. This purchase would be an increase of about $90,000 for city of Allegan.

Cook reminded everyone that smoke alarms are available at the fire station and firefighters can assist with installation.

Allegan would be pleased to have the two other townships join the consortium. The firefighters will mow the lawn but will need assistance with snow removal. The roof repair is moving forward, but it has an unusual cement ceiling design. There are no leaks. The overhangs are the problem.

Councilmember Walker gave kudos to the Board and how they handle the fire department.

New Fire Truck. The request to authorize the installment purchase of a new fire truck for the Allegan Fire District, and to adopt Resolution 25.36 to Approve and Adopt the Fire Truck Acquisition and Financing Contract was approved. City Manager Dye shared that the City Staff advises the council to approve the loan to acquire the 2015 Fire Tanker Truck that holds 3,000 gallons of water. They would secure a loan from Huntington Bank in the amount of $294,000 at a rate not to exceed 4.50%, payable over six (6) years.

Quarterly Budget Adjustments. The request to accept FY2025 4th Quarter Budget Adjustments Reports was approved. These are all adjustments approved by the Council over the year. In June, the Council agreed that the finance manager would make the proper budget adjustments before the reports go to the auditor.

Auditor's Report on the City's Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Statements. Dan from Siegfried Crandall, PC reviewed their findings and commented on the city's financial state as of June 30, 2025, which ended the 2025 fiscal year (FY25). He began by complimenting Financial Director Tracy Stull for her commitment to the financial bookkeeping. He explained that an auditor's report is a standard report. What is more important is the financial internal controls with checks and balances. Errors must be identified and corrected.

Siegfried Crandall gave only five bullet points. Three related to capital assets, and one payable that required an adjustment that was made. The funds are healthy across the board except the water fund which generated an operating loss and is an area to examine that will require a rate examination. The other suggestion relates to the defined benefit plan for police. MERS should be increased for officers.

The auditor's report accepted.

Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual. The request to approve two amendments to the Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual: Section 5.3-Funeral/Bereavement Leave and Section 8.1-Payment in Lieu of Health Insurance passed. The Bereavement Leave did not address pregnancy problems such as miscarriages or still births. The Health Insurance did not address when an employee could receive payment in lieu of health insurance. This would update the language so employees who are spouses or dependents of full-time employees are not eligible for payment in lieu of insurance.

Public Engagement Plan Update. To align with the requirements of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's (MEDC) Redevelopment Ready Communities® (RRC) program, the Council reviewed the list of public engagement activities during 2025. In addition to City Council Meetings, the city held numerous commission, advisory and board meetings, plus special meetings, Open Houses, parade participation, and outreach opportunities.

Request to Close for Holiday Party. The annual request to approve the closure of City Hall at noon on December 12, 2025, for the annual employee holiday party passed. The party begins at noon. Employees often attend this activity then merge into Art Hop that begins at 5pm.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- Dye voiced his appreciation of Tessa for sharing the idea of placing boulders at Trowbridge Plaza as a safety precaution.
- Dye voiced his appreciation of the firefighter for attending the meeting and for their work that is not easy.
- Dye wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and encouraged them to participate in Small Business Saturday right after Thanksgiving.
- It was noted that the city received a grant to do an analysis of Downtown as follow up with the pre-COVID assessment and prior to the Streetscape Project.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION FROM COUNCIL & MAYOR

- Councilmembers wished all a safe holiday.
-Dec. 12th: Walker and Hooker will hold a Coffee Council in the City Hall during Art Hop. They will offer hot cocoa during the discussion with whomever wishes to chat.
- Dec. 19th: Clark and Perrigo will host the Coffee Council.

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Josh Keller, Artistic Director
Vivian Adel Boot, Pianist
Saturday, Dec 13
7:00pm
Sunday, Dec 14
4:00pm
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COMMUNITY EVENTS

EVENTS TO WATCH FOR!

Old Jail Museum – Holiday Hours: Fri., Nov. 28 & Sat., Nov. 29, 10am-4pm; Fri., Dec. 26 & Sat., Dec. 27' 2025, 10am-4pm.

Fri., Nov. 28, 2925: Black Friday sales in Allegan and the surrounding communities

Sat., Nov. 29, 10am-6pm: Small Business Saturday. Throughout Allegan and the city limits.

Including Merry Market: The Shoppes on Brady St., 136 Brady, Allegan

Sat., Nov. 29, 2025, 11am-1pm: Santa at the Museum. Old Jail Museum N. Walnut St. Allegan

Tues., Dec. 2, 2025: GIVING TUESDAY

Tues., Dec. 2, 2025, 6-8pm: Fun with Improv! Allegan District Library Hubbard St. Allegan

CURRENT EVENTS

Wed., Nov. 26, 2025, 8pm: Thanksgiving Eve Party
Allegan Eagles #2315 110 Chestnut St. Allegan
The public is welcome to the Thanksgiving Party to support the giving of the Eagles to the community. The band Cut'n Loose will entertain live.

Sat., Nov. 29, 10am-6pm: Small Business Saturday Merry Market
The Shoppes on Brady St., 136 Brady, Allegan
The building will be full of new businesses and artists. Stop and shop while having fun at Eccentric Garden Plant Shop, Essenburg Arts, Bound & Boarded Books, Games and More.

Sat., Nov. 29, 2025, 11am-1pm: Santa at the Museum
Old Jail Museum N. Walnut St. Allegan
Be sure to stop at the Museum to share Christmas wishes with Santa.

Mon., Dec. 1, 2025, 6-7:30pm: Grief Support
Wings of Hope Office, 530 Linn St., Allegan
Come for an opportunity for healing and hope.

Tues., Dec. 2, 2025: GIVING TUESDAY

Tues., Dec. 2, 2025, 6-8pm: Fun with Improv!
Allegan District Library Hubbard St. Allegan
Have fun and spontaneity playing improv game with Spike Kunetz with 18 and up. Register at 269 673-4625.

Wed., Dec. 3, 2025, 6-7:30pm: Alcohol Ink Ornaments
Brave Art Studios 1873 Lincoln Rd, Allegan
Decorate 4 lovely ornaments using a variety of Alcohol Ink techniques. Go to https://www.paypal.me/braveartcarr to register and pay

Thurs., Dec. 4, 2025, Noon-8pm: Festival of Trees Kickoff
Camp Kidwell, 39000 1st Ave., Bloomingdale
Enjoy the opening remembrance ceremony and the first look at the beautiful trees.

Thurs., Dec. 4, 2025, 1-3pm: Poppies
Brave Art Studios 1873 Lincoln Rd, Allegan
Learn to paint poppies. Go to https://www.paypal.me/braveartcarr to register and pay

Thurs., Dec. 4, 2025, 5pm: Holiday After Hours
The LYNX Golf Course 900 Lincoln Rd. Otsego
Enjoy an evening with other members of area Chamber of Commerce groups with wonderful food, beverages, entertainment, games, and silent auction.

Fri., Dec. 5, 2025, Noon-9pm: Festival of Trees Soup & Sandwich Day
Camp Kidwell, 39000 1st Ave., Bloomingdale
Enjoy the lunch or dinner, stroll around the cabins and look at the beautiful trees, wreaths and holiday decor then begin bidding on your favorites.

Fri., Dec. 5, 2025, 5-8pm: Festive Friday – Holiday Parade
Downtown Allegan will begin with a free movie at 4pm at the Regent Theater and open the streets for the Holiday Parade at 7pm.

Sat., Dec. 6, 2025, 10am-3pm: Festival of Trees Cookies with Mrs. Claus
Camp Kidwell, 39000 1st Ave., Bloomingdale
Enjoy the lunch and decorating cookies, stroll around the cabins and look at the beautiful trees, wreaths and holiday decor then begin bidding on your favorites.

6pm: Social, dinner and auction. Tickets required.

Sat., Dec. 6, 2025, 8:30am-12:30pm: Allegan United Methodist Church Bazaar
United Methodist Church 409 Trowbridge St. Allegan
Start the day with hot coffee and fresh baked cinnamon rolls, shop the large variety of baked goods and the craft tables, visit the treasure room for secondhand items, and stop at the soup station for a bowl of soup. Info: call (269) 673-4236.

Sat., Dec. 6, 2025, all day: Fennville Holiday Celebration
Start the season with reindeer, sending letters to the North Pole, meeting Santa and holiday arts and crafts.

Sat., Dec. 6, 2025, 9am-3pm: Christmas Market at the Manor
Robinson Manor 701 Marshall St. Allegan
Come shop with local artists, crafters, and vendors throughout the decorated Manor! Shop for those last minute Christmas gifts, or something for yourself. Bring the kids as Santa plans to be there. Free entry.

Sat., Dec. 6, 2025, 5pm: Snow Fest
Downtown Wayland 103 S. Main St. Wayland
Enjoy music, food, activities, a live nativity, & the lighting of the tree at 7pm

Sat., Dec. 6, 2025, 6:30pm: Christmas Music Program
First Presbyterian Church 200 Cutler St. Allegan
Phil Siegler will be at the grand piano with beautifully arranged seasonal songs, a guest soloist, choir performance, and singalong of Christmas carols. Get the spirit of Christmas.

Sun., Dec. 7, 2025, 11am-4pm: Festival of Trees Last change
Camp Kidwell, 39000 1st Ave., Bloomingdale
Finish browsing and bidding, eat lunch or dinner, and see what you won.

Sun., Dec. 7 & Mon., Dec. 8, 2025, 6:30-9pm: Heroes & Scoundrels auditions
Griswold Auditorium Hubbard St. Allegan
Join Spike Kunetz to audition for his latest play. This is a provocative collection of 7 short plays that challenge conventional notions of heroism and villainy. No sign up is required. For more details: https://www.allegancommunityplayers.org/auditions

Tues., Dec. 9, noon-6pm: Red Cross Blood Drive
Church of God 112 Kalamazoo St. Otsego
Schedule at https://www.redcrossblood.org/ or drop in to assist with blood, platelets, blood cells, and more.

Tues., Dec. 9, 2025, 12:30-2pm: Grief Support
United Methodist Church, 322 Maple St., Hopkins
Wings of Hope will help guide participants through trying times.

Tues., Dec. 9, 2025, 5-7pm: Rossman Park & Downtown Updates
Allegan City Hall Trowbridge St. Allegan
All are invited to review plans and share ideas for the Rossman Park Neighborhood Project and the downtown street projects.

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

ASSISTANCE

Adventist Community Service Center
218 S. Farmer St. Otsego Tues. 10am-4pm; Thurs. 1-5pm
Clothes for the family and household goods are available, layettes for newborns, clothing, diapers, toys, etc. for babies to 6 mo. For emergency needs, call 269 694-4775 or Marlene 269 217-8293. This is supported by the 7th-Day Adventist Church and an ACCF TAG Grant.

Allegan County Community Action - Assistance for daily living
23 Water Street, Allegan, MI 49010, www.communityaction-allegan.org, (269) 673-5472
Food, weatherization, early childhood education.

Allegan Homeless Solutions - Helping eliminate barriers to housing.
108 Grant St., Plainwell MI 49080
www.alleganhomelesssolutions.org, Email: info@alleganhomelesssolutions.org

The Arc of Allegan County - Advocates for people with disabilities
219 Hubbard Street, Allegan 269 673-8841
Mission to advocate for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the community.

Baby Closet – Newborn Clothing and Supplies
Diaper Closet – monthly diaper program
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 101 N. Walnut Street Allegan
Call 269 673-2254 and leave a message.

Christian Neighbors - Food, Education, Emergency Financial Assistance
282 12th Street Plainwell MI 49080 (269) 685-4166
Monday: Drive-thru only - 10am-12pm and 4pm-6pm.
Tuesday: In person shopping/walk ins - 10am-12pm
Thursday: In person shopping/walk ins - 2pm-5pm
We have been providing services to the Plainwell, Otsego and Martin areas since 1983.

Community Clothes Closet – Free Clothing and More
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 101 N. Walnut Street, Allegan (269) 673-2254
Open Fridays, 10am – 1pm A wide selection of clothing for all ages is available.

Grief Support Groups
Wings of Hope invites all to a welcoming and compassionate gathering. 1st Monday of the month – 6-7:30pm, Wings of Hope Office, 530 Linn St., Allegan; 2nd Tues. of each month – 12:30-2pm, United Methodist Church, 322 Maple St., Hopkins; 3rd Monday of each month – 3-4:30pm, Ransom District Library, 189 S. Sherwood Ave., Plainwell; 4th Tues., Grief Support Luncheon, 1pm, Salvino's 1290 M89, Plainwell.

Interfaith Sunday Services
Mothers Trust is a nonprofit that is offering inclusive, interfaith worship services open to all Sundays at 11am at 6676 122nd Ave. Fennville. Information: Megan Hybels 269 312-0369, megan_h@motherstrust.org

Love, Inc.
Love in the Name of Christ 4621 135th Ave. Hamilton
For assistance with food, personal care items, baby needs, household items, clothing, appliances, furniture, bicycles, laundry, showers & Life Skills Wrap Around Care, call 269 751-2533. Visit www.loveincnwa.org., email: office@loveincnwa.org.

People Helping People of Pullman
Assistance by appt. 269 236-6295

Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Center - Abuse Prevention and Healing
404 Sherman St., Allegan, MI 49010 www.safeharborcac.org, (269) 673-3791

St. Vincent de Paul-St. Margaret Conference - Food and More
St. Vincent de Paul 124A W. Allegan St. Otsego
Mon.: 1-3pm Tues. & Thurs: 10am to noon Wed.: 3-5pm
Food pantry and limited financial aid. Dtvincentde-paul9005@gmail.com
Serves Otsego, Plainwell and Martin School Districts

Sylvia's Place - Safe from Domestic Violence
Crisis Line: 269 673-8700

United Church of Wayland - Free Clothing
1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month, 4 - 6pm
411 E Superior St. in Wayland

Wings of Hope Hospice & Palliative Care - End of Life Care
530 Linn Street, Allegan, MI 49010, www.wingsofhopehospice.com, (269) 686-8659

FOOD

Allegan Food Pantry
Church of God, 1313 Lincoln Rd., Allegan
Monday: 10 am–1pm; Tues.: 2–7pm; Fri. 1-4pm Curbside Service
Contact: Phone: 269 686-6369
Deliveries are made to homebound senior citizens.

Christian Neighbors, SE
282 12th St. Plainwell 269 685-4166

Christian Neighbors, Wayland
122 Church St. Wayland 269 792-2870

Congregational Kitchen - Thursday Dinner Pickup
Congregational Church 325 Cutler Street Allegan
Call (269) 673-3139 after 3pm any Thursday and place an order.
Thursdays: Pick up 3 to 5:30 pm. Takeout dinners only during COVID-19

Epiphany Lutheran Church
4219 Park Land Dorr 616 681-0791

Food Truck - 3rd Friday of each month, 4:30 - 5:30pm
United Church of Wayland
411 E Superior St. in Wayland

The Hands of Grace Food Pantry
United Methodist Church, 409 Trowbridge St., Allegan 269 673-4236
Tuesday: 9-11:45 a.m.; Wednesday: 9-11:45 a.m. and 5-7 p.m.; Friday: 10-11:45 a.m.
Food Pantry serves FOOD to residents of Allegan 49010 w/ valid ID with current address ONLY.

Hopkins United Methodist Church
322 Maple St. Hopkins
269 793-7340

Hungry for Christ
4565 135th Ave. Hamilton, 269 264-1307 x1000

Ladders of Hope USA - Food Assistance
717 East Main St, Fennville, MI 49408, www.laddersofhopemi.org., 269-686-6456

Martin Area Resource Center
1445 10th St, Martin (269) 672-5605
No appointment needed. Pick up by one person per household.

Martin United Methodist Church
969 E. Allegan St. Martin 269 672-7097

Mobile Food Pantry, 2nd Monday of the Month: Drive Thru Food Distribution
Casco United Methodist Church 880 66th ST, South Haven MI 49090
Pantry items a pre-packaged. Limit - one box per vehicle.

Project Hope
1808 143rd Ave. Dorr
616 681-4673 appt. only

The Vine Food Pantry / Love, INC
Christ Community Church
3370 113th Ave, Allegan, MI · (269) 673-2329

Wayland Farners Market
Apr. – Oct. Wed. & Sat.
Downtown Wayland

FUN FOR THE FAMILY

Bingo!, Wednesdays, 6pm: American Legion Hall
Senior Bingo!, Tuesdays from 1-3pm: American Legion Hall
Corner of Eastern Avenue and Hooker, Allegan

Allegan District Library, M-Th 10am-8pm, F 10am-5:30pm, Sat.10am-4pm:
Plus, Carnegie Corner Bookstore (Friend available on Tuesdays)
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard Street, lower level Allegan (269) 673-4625

Allegan Event – Ropes Course, Walls and More
439 River Street Allegan
Twilight Special: Thurs., 4-9pm, 2hrs. for $18
Free Game Card: Fri., 4-9pm w/ $20 food purchase
Family 4-Pack: Sat., 5-9pm, 4 premier combo tickets w/ pizza+ for $130
For more information call 269-430-3961 or check online at https://www.alleganevent.com

Allegan County Historical Society, Old Jail Museum.
Saturdays, 10 am – 4 pm, (269) 673-8292. Call to confirm hours or arrange for a private tour.
Email: oldjailmuseum06@yahoo.com Webpage: www.alleganoldjail.com

You're Invited to
a very Special
CHRISTMAS
MUSIC PROGRAM
at the
First Congregational Church of Allegan
323 Cutler St
Saturday, December 6, 6:30 pm
We are featuring Phil Siegler at the grand piano with many beautifully arranged songs of the season.
Also a guest soloist, a choir performance, and a singalong of Christmas carols, with a few hymns to enjoy! Do plan to join us and enter into the spirit of the Christmas season!

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CNA

Allegan County Historical Society recognizes volunteers

By Gari Voss

Volunteers of the Year

On behalf of the Allegan County Historical Society Board, President Greg Hipps gave a heartfelt thank you and big congratulations to Delores Kelly and Regina Beck on being selected as co-volunteers of the year 2025!

Regina has proven to be invaluable to the organization. With her computer skills, she has spent many hours entering artifacts into The Jail Museum database.

Delores Kelly has been a member for many years. She makes the soap sold at the museum and during the Allegan County Fair. These are some things she really enjoys. Over the years, she has also helped in many other ways. In addition, the board of trustees unanimously voted in favor of bestowing Delores with a lifetime membership for her contributions.

Know Your Allegan History

Match the Allegan County Figure to the Corresponding Historical Event

1. Robert Dunham _____
2. I.O. Hoffman _____
3. John L. Shearer _____
4. Floyd Harter _____
5. Calvin White _____
6. Pete McNab _____
7. E.W. Eady _____
8. Carl Simmons _____
9. Max Loebel _____
10. O.D. Goodrich _____

A. Built the Red Brick Tavern
B. Owned a shoe factory in Otsego
C. Long-time Allegan Fire Chief
D. The founder of Michigan Cottage Cheese in Otsego
E. The first Allegan County Sheriff
F. Started The Regent Theatre
G. Built the little stone house at Knobloch's Corner
H. Owned the store where the 1884 Allegan fire began
I. Drove the first Perrigo delivery truck/semi
J. Became the first doctor in Allegan in 1836

ANSWERS: 1F, 2H, 3E, 4C, 5A, 6G, 7B, 8I, 9D, 10J

During their membership meeting, the Allegan County Historical Society reviewed 2025 and present the Volunteer of the Year Award to Delores Kelly and Regina Back. Pictured Delores Kelly, President Greg Hipps, Regina Back, Member Jill Bentley. Photo courtesy of the Old Jail Museum

Two honored with Korean Ambassador for Peace medal

A Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal Ceremony was hosted at Allegan City Hall on Saturday November 15, 2025, to honor two local Kalamazoo area Veterans. Allegan City Councilmember Melanie Hooker, Allegan City Manager Joel Dye and Mayor Traci Perrigo attended.

"We are so honored to have had the opportunity to recognize these Veterans and facilitate this medal ceremony on behalf of the South Korean Consulate," said Traci Perrigo, "It meant the world to the families and the Veterans as well." Also in attendance were Officer Chad Dame, Assistant City Manager Parker Johnson, Allegan City Councilmember Carl Canales and Deputy Clerk Carol Canales.

The Korean War was fought between North Korea and South Korea starting on June 25, 1950 and ending July 27, 1953 with the signing of an armistice agreeing that the country would remain divided. During the war, United States military forces were joined by 21 other countries in driving the forces of North Korea, China and Russia out of the Republic of Korea. This commemorative medal is an expression of appreciation from the Korean government to United States service men and women who served in the Korean War.

"Identifying Korean War Veterans and honoring their service is important," said Karen Braddy Lambert, Board of Directors of Talons Out Honor Flight, "I met these Veterans on the last Talons Out Honor Flight, Mission 27 on October 11, 2025, and was excited to learn that they qualified for this beautiful medal. Today, only around 14% of our Korean War Veterans are with us so we want to honor as many as we can, as quickly as we can." Major Steve Lambert, United States Air Force Retired presented the medals.

Two local Veterans were recognized: Roy Lawrence James of Allegan served in the Army and received a Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Medal, the Korean Service Medal with 2 Bronze Stars, the United Nations Service Medal, the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation and the Bronze Star. Leon James Pachner of Paw Paw served in the Navy and received the National Defense Medal, the China Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal and the United Nations Medal.

Leon Pachner said, "As a serviceman during this conflict I had an opportunity to serve my country and support South Korea. I am proud to receive this award as it signifies not only the unity between the countries but recognizes all the men and women who served in our armed forces."

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Wings of Hope
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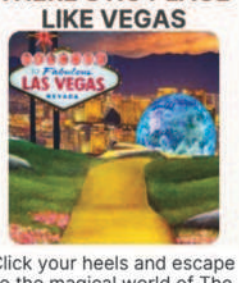
PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT WINGS OF HOPE
ONE WINNER WILL CHOOSE ONE OF THESE AMAZING PRIZES

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE VEGAS



Click your heels and escape to the magical world of The Wizard of Oz at the iconic Sphere Las Vegas! This unforgettable getaway includes two show tickets (or a similar performance based on availability), round-trip airfare for two from Grand Rapids, MI, and a 3-night stay at the luxurious Venetian Resort. Enjoy dazzling shows, world-class dining, and vibrant nightlife in a Vegas adventure that feels like your very own Emerald City.

PERFECT PATIO CHILL & GRILL

Transform your backyard with a $1200 Visa Gift Card for the perfect patio set, a Traeger Pro Series 22 Wood Pellet Grill for delicious smoky meals, and a durable YETI Tundra Cooler to keep drinks cold. Plus, enjoy a $250 gift certificate to Schaendorf Cattle Co. for premium meats. Grill, chill, and relax in style with everything you need for the ultimate outdoor experience!

$50/ TICKET

A MAMMOTH ADVENTURE

Explore the world's longest cave system with a guided tour for four at Mammoth Cave National Park in Kentucky. This adventure includes a 3-night stay at Mammoth Cave Lodge, a $750 VISA gift card for travel expenses, and an America the Beautiful Pass for a year of access to U.S. national parks. Discover ancient passageways, underground rivers, and awe-inspiring formations in this unforgettable natural wonder!

WINNER DRAWN DECEMBER 12TH 2025 AT WINGS OF HOPE OFFICE
CONTACT WINGS OF HOPE TO PURCHASE TICKETS AT: 269-686-8659 OR 530 LINN STREET, ALLEGAN OR VISIT WWW.WINGSOFHOPEHOSPICE.COM.
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Congress works parttime, but receives fulltime pay

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
■ PUBLISHER ■

Every year, the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate release their official calendars, and every year the same disbelief follows: *this* is how many days our elected lawmakers plan to work?

I saw the House of Representatives schedule for next year and was aghast. I knew they weren't in session during August and around the Christmas holiday season, but my mouth dropped when I saw the 2026 schedule.

For an institution responsible for crafting laws, approving budgets, and overseeing a massive federal government, Congress spends shockingly few days actually in session.

In a typical year, the House gavels in for roughly 110–130 days. The Senate meets slightly more, often averaging around 150. Compare that to the standard American worker who puts in 240-plus workdays annually, and it becomes clear that our legislative branch operates on a schedule that would make even the most generous corporate HR manager blush.

I don't mind that they don't craft additional laws. In my opinion there are too many on the books. But didn't we just endure the longest government shutdown in history, only to extend the budget down the road until the end of January? Shouldn't our legislators be hard at work, solidifying that budget, or will we face another shutdown in January?

Defenders are quick to point out that members of Congress work in their districts when they're not in Washington. Yes, district work is important—meeting constituents, attending events, and staying connected to local issues. But no matter how you spin it, Washington is where legislation is written, budgets are negotiated, hearings are held, and national problems are solved. And Washington is where Congress simply doesn't spend enough time.

The consequences are visible. Major legislation sits stalled, not because disagreements can't be resolved, but because lawmakers spend too little time in the same building to resolve them. It is difficult to negotiate compromises or build relationships when members pack up and fly home every Thursday afternoon.

A shorter work calendar also fuels political dysfunction. When Congress is barely in session, every day becomes a high-stakes, high-drama performance. There's no time for patience, no time for careful review, and certainly no time for the kind of bipartisan conversations that used to happen organically, often after hours or between votes. Today, the congressional clock is so compressed that every issue is treated like an emergency—but few are actually solved.

Worse, Congress' abbreviated schedule sends a message, intentionally or not: that governing is a side job, not a full-time responsibility. Imagine the reaction if teachers, firefighters, nurses, or factory workers announced they would be on the job only a few days each month. Yet the people responsible for appropriating trillions of dollars and passing laws affecting 330 million Americans operate exactly that way.

Imagine receiving $170,000 and health and retirement benefits for life for a side gig. No wonder so many people. It's utterly ridiculous, but hey, it's our money that pays these politicians. We need to force them to earn it.

It doesn't have to be like this. A serious, modern Congress should—at minimum—double its time in Washington. The institution needs to function more like a real workplace: more debate, more bipartisan committees meeting, more room for negotiations, and more accountability for accomplishing what they were elected to do. Democracy is not strengthened by absentee governance.

Americans expect productivity, accountability, and results from their representatives. The first step toward that is simple: show up. If Congress wants to regain the public's trust, it should start by working the number of days worthy of the job.

Life as Performance Art

G CORWIN STOPPEL

Even those closest to me don' know that I am a time traveler and world adventurer. I don't talk much about it because some of them would never understand.

It began the Saturday afternoon Mike Mulligan and his steam shovel Mary Ann were looking for work.

Over the years, I rode a camel with Richard Burton in the 1800s when he went across the Arabian deserts to Mecca, then risked my life in the charge of the Light Brigade. Col. Roosevelt invited me to go horseback riding with him one morning.

Winston Churchill enticed me to spend a day at Chartwell, and I learned how to build a brick wall in the morning and paint in the afternoon.

In the Middle Ages I became a stonemason, and you can read all about it in Ruskin's "Stones of Venice." There was the winter night when young Dr. Will Mayo and I took a horse-drawn sleigh out to a rural farm where I held the lantern as he performed life-saving surgery.

I spent a summer in the late 1940s at Sam Campbell's island cottage in northern Wisconsin. I visited a little log cabin in the big woods and had dinner with the Ingalls's family.

Right now, I'm taking a break from an old manual typewriter, up in a stuffy attic transcribing James Joyce's strange story (his handwriting is atrocious), because a new author is downstairs in Sylvia Beach's bookstore. I think his name is Hemingway. Soon, I've got to go over to Whistler's studio to see how his portrait of his mother is coming along.

That's just the beginning of my time travel and adventures. I have done them all, and no I am not completely nutty.

Do you want to know how I have experienced all these adventures? Books. I read books. Not movies or streaming videos or scrolling from one short TikTok or Instagram post to another. Books. Old-fashioned page turning, books. Books that have a slight smell to them, and you can touch. Christmas is a great time for books.

Children growing up can't wait to unwrap their presents, then divide them into the useful gifts and fun gifts. Depending on the cover, a book goes into one pile or another.

Most kids are like bluejays, crows and magpies, all of which are instantly attracted to almost anything bright and shiny. In short, the toys.

The thing is, after playing with a toy for a while, it loses its charm and excitement. We want something more substantial than shooting low-powered rubber "missiles" at imaginary targets on the other side of the room. Barbie or American Girl dolls lose their appeal, and toymakers know it. That is why they come out with new models every year.

A book lasts, even after the cover is coming off, pages become unbound or there are more margin notes than text. Late in life, as we approach the time when our minds are away with the fairies, a smile creeps across our face when we remember a book from the past.

It gets even better when we reread one last visited years ago. Bertie Wooster is far more fun now than he was when we first met years ago.

Sometimes a book leads us into hopscotching from one author to another. After traipsing across the English moors with Holmes and Watson looking for that big dog, I migrated on to Dorothy L. Sayers, then Georges Simeon and to Agatha Christie. Sayers and Christie led me straight to writing my own mysteries, but mine sell less well.

Think back to your favorite books from the past. With books there's no rush. Then try to remember why you liked them so much, how they inspired or touched your life. How did they make you feel?

Here is my suggestion for the Christmas shopping season: give books. If you are making out your own Santa list for your family and friends, suggest books. Be kind and give them some general themes, authors or topics that appeal to you.

Don't take the easy route of going straight to your computer and buying books from a mammoth online company. They use algorithms to guide you straight to their preferred authors and titles. To make a book a truly great Christmas present, do the legwork and walk into a store.

The best place to begin is one of the thrift stores. My friend "Scrooge" is forever finding a book he thinks I might enjoy. He is almost always right.

That's because thrift and used book stores have shelves full of books that someone has already read. Maybe they didn't like it, but you might. Maybe they did like it, but had to reluctantly part with it to make room for more books.

Buying a book is the first step. Before you wrap and put a bow on it, take a few minutes to write a note why you bought that specific volume. Tell them what you like about the author or story; that might entice them to read it, and other books by the same author or on the same theme.

You know what will happen: you'll go into the store to buy presents, then end up treating yourself to something that appeals to you. That is a good thing.

Be careful with buying books as a gift. You might magically convert the recipient into becoming a time-traveler who has worldwide adventures.

That's what happened to me. I read Campbell's "Beloved Rascals" and wound up reading the entire series. Then I veered off to a canoe trip with Eric Sevaried and we went on an adventure from northern Canada back to Minnesota in "Canoeing with the Cree."

After that, I went back in time and further west with the great explorer Frazier. who traveled through the Canadian Wilderness in the 1700s.

It could get a lot worse, or perhaps even better. Reading "Stones of Venice" led to studying how Notre Dame in Paris was built. Pat and I had to see it. The same thing happened after Hercule Poirot and I were on the same ship on the Nile when a murder occurred. We had to see Egypt for ourselves.

For better or worse, she drew the line at a slow road trip through southwestern Minnesota after I read the three volumes chronicling the history of the Third Minnesota Militia during the Sioux Uprising. Instead, she insisted we had to go back to Paris on the trail of "The Da Vinci Code."

Books are dangerous. They stretch the imagination and give new insights on the world. That is the best reason in the world to give books for Christmas.

Faces in the Crowd

By G C Stoppel

After nearly 200 years, the last penny was minted. According to the government statistics, there are, however, some 300 billion pennies in circulation. Inflation has struck because this week's question: "A nickel for your thoughts. What does the end of the penny mean to you?"

-Man at a gas station on M-89: "Nothing. What I want to know is what they're going to do with that tenth of a penny. That's the big one!" He points to the price of a gallon. "See, it's $3.06 and nine tenths." Laughs.

-Older couple, same location: Woman: "I don't know. What Trump taketh away, the next President can giveth right back." Man looks at her and laughs.

-Young man near the Allegan Public Library: "Doesn't make much difference to me. I got other things more important to deal with."

-Friend with him: "I agree. There are a lot of things more important."

-Woman in front of Huntington Bank: "I just asked a teller about that. She said that pennies will be around for decades, there are so many of them."

-Friend with her: "What I don't like is that stores and places will round up. If something costs a dollar and one cent, that means they're going to get four extra cents. That's not right. And don't you tell me I'll get used to it. I'm too old to get used to that sort of change."

-First woman: "Then just take some pennies with you and insist they charge the right amount. Course, you object too much and you might be put on Trump's enemies list."

-Second Woman gasps: "I don't want to get in trouble."

-Middle aged man, same location: "It makes sense to get rid of them. They cost more to make that they're worth. And they're not copper, just copper plated zinc. The country used to have half-cent and even three cent coins. Gone. Long gone. Things change."

-Man, near Allegan City Hall: "I've been saving my pennies since I was a kid. I got buckets of them. I'm going to wait and see if they're going to be more valuable. If they aren't and I start hearing they're not going to let stores use them anymore, then I'll turn them in."

-Woman overhearing our conversation: "You happen to know when they went from being all copper to some alloy. I've got quart Mason jars full of pennies. Maybe the older ones will be worth more if they're melted down."

-Young woman near the Regent Theater: "I can't believe everyone getting so obsessed with pennies. Like, what's the purpose of it? I used to watch for pennies on the sidewalk when I was a kid, but now? No way."

-Older man coming out of Minnie's: "I don't like it. I don't like it one bit. If they take away our pennies, then I'm going to quit tipping!" Big smile and laughs. "Just having a bit of fun. I don't care what they do. And I do tip!"

-Woman, same location: "I feel sorry for the kids. When I was growing up, a few pennies made us feel rich. We watched for them when we were out. You know, free money. Kids today will never know what it's like to do that."

-Woman near the Allegan County News office: "It's sort of sad in a way. My folks made me a piggy bank out of an old pint Ball jar and a slit in the top. I could see my money adding up. Now, kids won't learn to be thrifty anymore."

The Allegan COUNTY NEWS

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Giving Tuesday heightens the holiday spirit

By Gari Voss

Giving Tuesday will be December 2, 2025, the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving. Sometimes, this day is easy to forget with Thanksgiving in its wake and Christmas dead ahead. But it still is celebrated in the United States and Internationally.

This global day of giving finds people assessing their time, treasures and talents to assist in making the world a little better than it was the day before. For some organizations, this day provides a major fundraising campaign. For individuals, it can be taking part in one of the fundraising campaigns or in examining how to give by using time and talents.

To make the day a true Global Day of Generosity, those across Allegan County can consider donating to local non-profits, U. S. charities or international charities.

Local Charities are listed at https://greatnonprofits.org/city/allegan/MI or might include:

Wings of Hope or Wings Home
Wilcox Pub. Christmas Wish Program
K'zoo Folklife, Allegan Chapter
Friends on Wednesday
Allegan Co. Community Foundation
Tree of Love at Beacon Allegan Hospital Foundation
Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Center
Allegan Public Educational Foundation
Sylvia's Place
The Arc of Allegan County
Sunset House
Allegan Area Arts Council
Allegan Community Players
Episcopal Church Baby Closet
Congregational Food Program
Allegan County Food Pantry
Camp Kidwell
Farm Safety 4 Just Kids
American Legion
Any local church
And the list goes on…

If pennies are tight, giving **Time and Talent** might work better. Try lending a hand around town:

A neighbor with a need
Congregational Food Warehouse
People Helping People, Pullman
Ministries of Carlos Lopez, Fennville
Hungry for Christ, Hamilton
Paws With A Cause, Wayland
Sylvia's Place
Good Shepherd Community Closet
The Arc of Allegan
Beacon Allegan Hospital
Wings Home or Wings of Hope
Safe Harbor CASA
Old Jail Museum
A District Library
Allegan Community Players
Any Care Facility
A local school
And the list goes on…

Allegan Community Players offer December opportunities

By Gari Voss

Allegan Community Players revealed that they will have a busy December, and community members are invited to participate.

Fun with Improv – Dec. 2nd, 6-8pm

The month begins on Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at the Allegan District Library with "Fun with Improv" led by Spike Kunetz. The event is for adults 18 years and older. Participants will learn and practice techniques by playing spontaneous games. Kunetz is a master of improv and spent 20 years teaching at The Second City in Chicago. He promises, "No previous experience, no audience, no pressure, yes fun!" The event is free, however, please register in advance by calling the Allegan District Library at 269 673-4625.

***Heroes and Scoundrels* Auditions – Who is worthy to wear the cape?**

The Allegan Community Players will be holding auditions on Sunday, December 7 and Monday, December 8, 2026, 6:30-9pm for their next production, *Heroes and Scoundrels*. Written by Spike Kunetz, a veteran playwright from Chicago's Second City, *Heroes and Scoundrels* is a provocative collection of seven short plays that will challenge conventional notions of heroism and villainy.

Each playlet demonstrates intelligence and wit. The thought-provoking theatrical mosaic invites audiences to question their assumptions and discover the messy humanity behind the labels "hero" and "scoundrel."

The cast features adults of various ages. For character descriptions, audition sides, and rehearsal details, go to https://www.allegancommunityplayers.org/auditions. Become acquainted with characters such as Keenan (a painter), Handley (a middle school teacher), Protector (a pompous and self-important male), Precious (an innocent female), Byler (a peppy female physical education teacher), Goodman (an angry, victimized male), Crumm (a sleazy, arrogant, oily lawyer), Berry-Berry (a stressed, over-worked government mediator), and more.

Those wishing to audition can come to the Griswold Auditorium on Hubbard Street on December 7th or 8th from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. The production team encourages drop ins with no sign up necessary.

This production will be on the Griswold Auditorium Stage March 19-22, 2026. For questions, contact spike@allegancommunityplayers.org.

Christmas at the Griswold, Dec. 20th, 6pm

This FREE production will feature the Allegan Brass Collective. For the 8th year, the Allegan Brass will bring their holiday cheer and delightful music to the stage thanks to the Friends of the Allegan District Library. In addition, the Collective will be joined by the Allegan Community Players who will provide some laughs and lead the audience in a holiday sing along.

The Christmas concert will fill the auditorium with music, stories, and laughter for the whole family. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., so be sure to come early as seats fill quickly.

APS hosts student-led Anne Frank traveling exhibit

By Rob Patin, Allegan Public Schools Communications Director

Allegan Public Schools is excited to announce that it will be the first to host the traveling exhibit "Anne Frank: A History for Today" at L.E. White Middle School. Presented in partnership with the Allegan Area ESA, the exhibit will give students and community members an opportunity to explore Anne Frank's story and its lessons for today, all while being guided by middle school students who have been specially trained to lead visitors through the experience.

Fifteen eighth-grade students have been selected by their teachers to serve as the exhibit's tour leaders and will take part in a two-day training on November 24–25, where they will learn about Anne Frank, the Holocaust, and the artifacts they will help curate for display. Beginning in December, they will guide their classmates through the exhibit and then welcome the community to a special evening event at L.E. White Middle School on December 9.

Allegan Public Schools has the honor of being the first school district in the county to host the exhibit. For L.E. White Middle School Principal Laura Feffer, she couldn't be happier that students and the community will have the opportunity to experience the exhibit in her building.

"We were thrilled to take this opportunity and run with it," Mrs. Feffer said. "Anne Frank started her diary at 13, and that's the same age as our middle schoolers. They're able to relate to that time in adolescence, which makes this such a good fit."

Feffer believes the exhibit will offer students a rare and lasting kind of learning, one that goes far beyond what a typical classroom lesson can provide. "To me, this is the kind of experience that I have a feeling our students will remember for years and years to come," she said. "They'll be able to talk to their children and grandchildren about it."

The exhibit creates powerful opportunities for students to think about how to respond when they witness something wrong is happening to others. "If we're silent, we permit harm," Mrs. Feffer said. "The Holocaust teaches us that. It's so important for somebody—even one person—to have the courage to say, 'No, this isn't right. What can I do to help?' I think that inoculation against hate is a goal of this project."

Allegan Public Schools Director of Instructional Services Hillary Baker shares that belief, feeling that the exhibit gives students a chance to develop both understanding and empathy as they learn about Anne Frank's life. "This really gives them the ability to develop skills, whether it's public speaking, empathy, or the confidence to teach and lead others," she said. "It models the kind of inquiry-based learning we really want for our students."

Fifteen L.E. White Middle School students will be trained on November 24–25, 2025, so they can guide their peers and the community through the "Anne Frank: A History for Today" exhibit at L.E. White Middle School on December 9th.

Mrs. Baker said she is excited for the impact the experience will have not only on those leading the tours but on every student and community member who walks through the exhibit. "I think this will develop empathy, develop the notion of resilience in our students and in our community as well," she said.

Eighth-grade social studies teacher Kay Scharlow is especially excited for her students to take part in the exhibit, noting how powerfully it connects to the history they study in her classroom. "We teach history so we can apply it today," Mrs. Scharlow said. "They're going to talk about being a bystander and the importance of speaking up. That's as relevant now as ever.

"There's nothing more powerful than students learning from other students," Mrs. Scharlow added. "Some of these kids don't always get chosen for other leadership roles, but they love history. They're excited to teach, and they're going to shine."

That excitement is exactly what Feffer hopes every visitor will carry with them after walking through the exhibit. "For the community, I just think this is such an important reminder of how we need to take the time to face and understand what's happened in our past, so it doesn't repeat again," she said. "It's a reminder to choose tolerance, diversity, and love over hate."

For additional information, contact L.E. White Middle School Principal Laura Feffer at (269) 673-2241 or via email at lfeffer@alleganps.org.

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Tree of Love supports those who fought cancer

By Gari Voss

Even though Allegan's hospital has changed ownership, the Borgess Hospital Foundation, Beacon Kalamazoo continues to support uninsured and under-insured patients with early breast cancer detection. Women and men who require mammograms and even follow up to those results can receive monetary assistance. Donations to the Tree of Love Allegan stay in Allegan.

The Tree of Love's lights are offered to honor those who have survived cancer and those who are remembered for their valiant fight. Kim Loftus, Chief Development Officer at Borgess Hospital Foundation, reminded those assembled that since 1985, the Tree of Love campaign has provided patients in need access to mammograms and breast health services. The survival rate for patients with early diagnosis and treatment is 98%, but those who have none or limited insurance coverage postpone early detection measures.

Loftus shared that thanks to the Tree of Love in the last five years, 350 patients have received more than 1,400 cancer procedures. Donations can be made at beacon.health/treeoflove or by contacting Julie Ruel at jlruel@beaconhealthsystem.org and request a form.

Loftus reminded the gathering, "Each donation, no matter how large or small, helps remove a barrier for those who need a mammogram, and in the last 18 months, 120 patients in SW Michigan received assistance from the Tree of Love."

Kreg Gruber, CEO of Beacon Health System, took time to thank all who worked on the Tree of Love Campaign for the Foundation. "The Foundation allows us to do things that we could not do otherwise. We are proud of the Foundation, and 100% of what is donated goes to the cause for which that donation is made and to the community requested. There are no administrative costs taken out. We are very fortunate for this. Many charities do not have this ability."

Gruber continued, "Beacon was founded in 2011 by South Bend Memorial Hospital and Elkhart General Hospital. The two hospitals saw the future of local hospitals and decided not to join a larger group. The founders still believe in local governance and local leadership. One of the things we will be working on will be reestablishing subsidiary boards of volunteers in each community. The board will work with hospital leadership on how the hospital will run the services provided. We believe in connection to the community. It is how we were founded, so we will establish that in this community as well.

"This is a vital connection of confidence and communication to make sure we are taking care of our community. Greg Piper is here because we believe in having a local leader present. I want someone waking up each day thinking of this place. If they think about it and worry about it, they will work with the team to make things happen. It takes a lot of work and effort, and Greg had agreed to come up and work here until that position is formally put in place."

Gruber went on to explain that Beacon already has plans for Allegan growth and to bring back services. He admitted that it will take a while to regrow services since it took a while for services to be parceled out. But Beacon is committed to returning services.

In addition, Gruber stressed the importance of asking questions. Questions asked will receive an answer. Beacon believes that the hospital is part of the community and a community asset. Thus, Beacon should be responsive to the community by sharing information.

Finally, Beacon feels it is important to partner with the community. Gruber admitted that they cannot do it all by themselves. They are one organization that does many things very well, but there are other things they need to do better, and the leadership needs help. Beacon wants to be the best health care system for this community.

"It has only been five months," reflected Gruber. "I feel that we are off to a good start, but there is a lot left to do. There are some pretty big milestones coming up. A big milestone is the new communication system that will launch in February, and that will entail all the clinical records and billing system. It will be bumpy, but we will work through it."

Interim President Greg Piper then took the microphone. After thanking the group for being welcoming, he shared that he wanted to listen. "It is important to hear what people want and need. In this way, Beacon can determine how we can help and move forward into the future."

Because Piper comes from a very small town, he is familiar with the problems of having the closest health care many miles away. "I see a lot of pride, enthusiasm, opportunity and potential in Allegan. I will be here to partner with you to move forward. We want to do the right thing for this community. We will focus on technology and have a one to three year plan for development to get back to where we were in terms of Allegan. You who are here tonight are equally vested in this process. Thank you in advance for your input and partnership. During this interim period, we will make sure we are taking care of patients."

The gathering concluded with a Q&A. One question focused on the subsidiary board. Gruber shared that contacts had been made, and there are six to eight members at this time. The goal is to have about ten who will serve for three-year terms.

Rob Sarro, Allegan County Administrator, expressed his thanks from the County Board of Commissioners to Gruber, Piper and Beacon for the opportunities to improve health services and access to care at Allegan Hospital. Gruber responded with the importance of strengthening the partnership with all of the county services. Piper shared that this communication has begun.

When quired on where Beacon would begin with returning services, Gruber immediately went with bringing primary care providers to the community. Being purposeful and opportunistic will be important, and primary doctors have already been contacted with some accepting the call to settle in Allegan. There are also conversations going on with specialty groups to bring services back to Allegan and reestablish more time at Beacon Allegan. Gruber felt that it comes down to leveraging resources for human support and technology.

Gruber concluded by assuring those gathered that the success of the hospital will rely on building the services and care to patients before publicizing changes. He felt that it is important that the changes are in place and executed properly. That will build the integrity and trust needed to move forward.

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Art Reach holds juried show

By Gari Voss

Art Reach in Allegan has hung beautiful artwork in the Griswold Auditorium and City Hall. For their member only gathering on Friday, November 21, 2025, the Allegan Area Arts Council decided to hold a juried, or judged, show. Artist Maryjo Lemanski assessed the work of local artists then awarded prizes.

The Allegan Area Arts Council sent out a call for entries with a deadline of November 12, 2025. The AAAC Board offered awards for 1st ($100), 2nd ($75), 3rd ($50) and $25 for honorable mention. The response was wonderful, and entries were exhibited in the Marilla Lounge at the Griswold Auditorium on Hubbard Street in Allegan.

Maryjo Lemanski had her hands full as she carefully examined each piece of art that was submitted for the show. After careful consideration, Lemanski shared her decision and took time to explain what she saw in the prize winners.

1st Place – Best of Show – Dina Ebling
2nd Place – Paula Corbett-Mintek
3rd Place – Paul Smith
Honorable Mentions –
Jim Kauppi
Connie Bridges
Xavier Corcoran
Holly Willson
Diane Sumner
Alexa Birkam

With a wide variety of mediums, those in attendance could enjoy what was pleasing to the eye while getting tips from fellow artists. The exhibit will be on display throughout the holidays so all attending the holiday events can take time to peruse the pieces and even purchase favorites.

Dina Ebling's piece took Best of Show at the Nov. 21, 2025, Art Reach Show.

Paula Mintek's still life took 2nd place at the Nov. 2025 Art Reach Show.

Paul Smith's assemblage of items took 3rd Place during the Nov. 21, 2025, Art Reach Show.

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COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

CELEBRATING THE ROOTS OF THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving remains one of the country's most longstanding and meaningful traditions, observed each year on the fourth Thursday of November. While modern celebrations tend to revolve around family meals and gatherings, the holiday's roots stretch back centuries and reflect themes of gratitude, cooperation, and community.

The first widely recognized Thanksgiving took place in 1621, when English settlers in Plymouth held a feast to celebrate their first successful harvest. Members of the Wampanoag tribe joined the gathering, marking a moment of shared support after a year of hardship for the new colony. Though the event was not intended as an annual holiday, it later became a symbol of unity and resilience.

Different colonies and states held their own thanksgiving observances in the years that followed, often tied to harvests or major events. It was not until 1863, during the Civil War, that President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national day of thanksgiving, encouraging Americans to pause for reflection during a time of great national strain. In 1941, Congress established Thanksgiving as a federal holiday, setting its annual date as the fourth Thursday of November.

Food traditions quickly became central to the holiday. Turkey, stuffing, cranberries, and pumpkin dishes reflect early autumn harvests and have become staples on tables across the country. Yet beyond the menu, the heart of Thanksgiving lies in its call to express gratitude for both personal and collective blessings.

There are many meaningful ways to honor that spirit. Families often begin the day by sharing reflections on what they are thankful for, strengthening bonds and encouraging appreciation. Acts of service, such as volunteering at community centers, food pantries, or shelters, help extend the holiday's message beyond one's own home. These efforts ensure that those facing hardship can also take part in the warmth of the season.

Supporting local charities is another impactful way to give thanks. Donating food, clothing, or funds to organizations assisting families, seniors, veterans, or children can make a substantial difference. Schools and civic groups frequently hold drives that provide easy opportunities for residents to participate.

Simple, personal gestures also hold value. Reaching out to someone who may be spending the holiday alone, writing a note of appreciation, or visiting a neighbor can brighten the day for others and reflect the holiday's deeper meaning.

By embracing gratitude and seeking opportunities to help those around them, communities carry forward the tradition that began centuries ago. Thanksgiving continues to serve as a reminder of the importance of reflection, generosity, and shared connection.

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OHS student Alkire starts garden for district

A student project is producing more than native plants.

It's yielding a learning opportunity for other students and impacting the environment.

Through her studies at Heronwood Nature Center, Otsego High School senior Zoe Alkire saw an opportunity to impact the environment right at OHS.

Alkire attended the Nature Center for two hours a day during her junior year—one of only two students who get to attend this program from Otsego—and spend the time studying various units in environmental science and biology.

When it was time to create her own project, she was drawn to a pollinator garden.

"Many pollinator populations are declining due to climate change and pesticide use, so this garden is designed to provide both a food source for pollinators as well as the milkweed that monarchs need for reproduction," she said.

Alkire knew about a garden a former teacher started about 25 years ago.

"I wanted to try to bring that back to help all pollinators, but especially monarchs," she said. "It was too overgrown in that area, so we started fresh in a new location, next to the bus garage."

Alkire researched types of plants that are native to this area as well as good nectar sources/pollinators.

She planted native grasses, milkweed, native flowering plants including grey-headed coneflower, black-eyed Susan and false sunflower. Altogether, she planted about 400 seedlings in May, with about two-thirds of them surviving.

"When it gets colder, we will plant seeds that will come up in the spring to add to what's already growing," she said.

Alkire recently got a little help with the garden.

Her dad, Nate Alkire, is a science teacher at Otsego Middle School. His STREAM students collected ironwood seeds—a native flowering plant—to go in the garden along with additional milkweed seeds.

The garden will require tending, mostly in the form of weeding, for a couple more years until it fills in.

After that, it will be self-sustaining, with some possible minor upkeep.

"I'm hoping that after a year or two, once the garden has matured, the nature-based preschool as well as other classes can use it to study pollinators," Zoe Alkire said.

Those other classes that could make use of the garden include Environment Science, STREAM and biology. With more people involved, it can be an educational source for generations to come.

Zoe Alkire is seen with the garden she started for Otsego Public Schools. (Photo provided)

Lifelong Learners group offers two more holiday events in early Dec.

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

The first of three holiday-themed activities for the Lifelong Learners group took place on Wednesday, Nov. 19.

That's when the group traveled to Grand Rapids for the Christkindl Market in Grand Rapids.

A European-style Christmas market, the Christkindl Market is located at the Grand Rapids Downtown Market at 435 Ionia Ave SW. The market features more than 60 artisan food and gift vendors, holiday entertainment and festive activities.

The outdoor event includes a German-style beverage hall, a curling sheet, private "Alpenglobe" rentals and activities like s'mores roasting and Santa visits.

Approximately two dozen individuals made the trip to Grand Rapids.

"The Lifelong Learners had an exciting trip to the Christkindl Market," Plainwell Community Schools said in a social media post. "While in Downtown Grand Rapids, they were delighted to explore the various vendor booths with homemade gifts, enjoyed the delicious food and treats, admired the festive decorations and appreciated the friendship with fellow Lifelong Learners.

The Lifelong Learners group recently took a trip to the Christkindl Market in Grand Rapids. The group has Santa Bingo! and a Holiday Brunch coming up in early December.

"It was a fantastic outing and a perfect way to kick off the holiday season."

Lifelong Learners, which is run through Plainwell Community Education, is open to all retirees and senior citizens in the area.

The Christkindl Market was the first of three holiday-themed events on the docket for the Lifelong Learners group.

On Thursday, Dec. 4, the group will hold Santa Bingo! at the Random District Library.

"Join us for fun, fellowship and the opportunity to win prizes," organizers said in a release.

Santa Bingo! runs from 2 to 3 p.m., with Ransom Library director Joe Gross joining in on the fun as the bingo caller.

Less than a week later, on Wednesday, Dec. 10, Lifelong Learners will host a Holiday Brunch at the Plainwell Performing Arts Center.

The brunch begins at 10 a.m. and will feature a variety of foods.

After the brunch, attendees have the opportunity to sit in on a sneak peak of the Plainwell High School Band and Choir Holiday Musicale.

The main performance for the PHS Band and Choir Holiday Musicale will take place on Thursday, Dec. 18, at 7 p.m.

To RSVP for or receive more information about Santa Bingo! and/or the Holiday Brunch, please contact Anne at (269) 685-5823.

Plainwell to act on proposal

By John Raffel
Correspondent

The City of Plainwell was set on Monday, Nov. 24, to act on the possible sale of city property.

The city, in its pre-meeting notes, pointed out Plainwell purchased 761 N. Main St. to create a potential rail road crossing that never came to fruition.

The owner of Golf Carts Plus, Jim Scholle, has asked to buy this parcel. He wants to attach it to the parcel he owns at 771 N. Main St. to provide an access road, allowing 771 N. Main St. to be developed into an apartment complex.

A statement in the meeting packet said the City has no use for this property, and is in favor of selling it.

The council was to act on a motion to consider selling 761 N. Main St. using the Request for Proposal (RFP) process.

The council was also set to recommend approval of a 12-year IFT exemption for Profielnorm USA, LLC.

Earlier this month at a council meeting, Superintendent Keyzer report all the biosolids/sludge was hauled out and disposed of and lift station maintenance was taking place.

Clerk Leonard reported on the election she worked in Leighton Township, and said everything went smoothlyr. City Manager Lakamper discussed a meeting he had with Weyerhaeuser and the City Attorney about a letter Weyerhaeuser sent the City concerning PFAS on the Mill property. Weyerhaeuser has asked the City to delay development to allow them to investigate further.

It was also reported the City Attorney feels that negotiations with Watts Homes can continue.

Draft covenants for the Mill property are being reviewed by EGLE at the State level. He shared that he had informed BizEx Ventures (Building 17/18 - Wedding Venue) that the Council was not interested in selling them Mill property for use as a parking lot.

They proposed paid parking as a possible solution to recoup their investment. He provided an update on building 2, stating that the insurance company has estimated a $540k payout after deprecation. This should be enough to cover demolition of the building.

It was also reported the auto auction business has withdrawn their offer to purchase the 28-acre parcel in Industrial Park, point out the site was too small to meet their inventory needs.

Otsego, Plainwell high schools host blood drives

Earlier this month, both Otsego High School and Plainwell High School hosted blood drives to help support the American Red Cross.

The PHS Red Cross Club (seen at right) organized their school's blood drive, successfully collecting 42 pints of blood, which can save up to 126 lives. District officials thanked all the donors and the Red Cross volunteers who made this event such a success.

The OHS Student Council organized the blood drive in Otsego (seen at left), which was the first of three that will be held at the school during the school year. (Photos provided)

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Clippers roll to third state crown in four years

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

MARQUETTE—Football is a game of momentum.

Martin football coach Brad Blauvelt has said that time and time again during the Clippers' run in the 8-Player Division 1 playoffs.

That definitely proved to be the case when Martin squared off with Blanchard Montabella in the State Finals at Northern Michigan University's Superior Dome on Saturday, Nov. 22.

With the score deadlocked at 8-8 after one quarter, B-M fumbled in the red zone on the third play of the second quarter and the 10th play of its drive. Martin senior Isaac Suk recovered the ball, and on the very next play Clipper senior Bryer Watson sprinted 81 yards for a touchdown.

And with that, Martin seized the momentum and never gave it back as they secured the 52-8 victory.

"We were so amped up to start the game that we made a few mistakes early," Blauvelt said. "Once we got the fumble recovery and scored on the very next play, it seemed like we took the wind out of their sails. You could feel the momentum shift, and we took full advantage."

The state championship was the third in four years for the Clippers (13-0), who also won titles in 2022 and 2023.

Martin fell to Mendon in the regional finals this year. Not wanting to deal with that feeling of disappointment again, the 12 seniors on the roster dubbed this season the Redemption Tour and vowed to bring another state title back home.

"It's really special to see hard work and determination pay off," Blauvelt said. "It's one thing to talk about redemption, it's another thing to take action and be as committed to winning as this group was.

"We hate losing more than we like winning. That's a cliché, yes, but that's the honest truth. The Mendon loss cut deep, and we didn't want to feel that again this season."

If anything, last year's early playoff exit reminded Blauvelt and this team of something of which they were already acutely aware: winning state titles is hard.

"We know how hard it is to get to the championship," Blauvelt said. "I think the outsider sees our success and thinks it's easy, but that couldn't be further from the truth. Many people, coaches, staff members, parents and community members work really hard to give our student-athletes the best of the best, I think that's a huge part of our success.

"And don't forget we lost to the eventual state champs for three straight years in the playoffs (before winning the title in '22). And it wasn't that long ago that we had one of the longest losing streaks in high school football. We've seen it all, and that's why we will never take winning for granted.

"Each season is special. Championships are extremely unique. It's very important to celebrate that."

As he's done throughout the season, senior quarterback Haylen Buell did his part to make sure the Clippers would be celebrating at the end of the title game.

Buell finished with a game-topping 179 yards on just nine carries. Three of those carries resulted in trips to the end zone, including a 3-yarder in the first quarter to account for Martin's first points. He added scoring runs of 44 yards (second quarter) and 62 yards (fourth quarter).

Martin quarterback Haylen Buell (1) gives the touchdown signal after one of the Clippers' trips to the end zone. (Photo provided by MHSAA/Cara Kamps)

Martin's Isaac Suk celebrates after recovering a fumble in the second quarter. (Photo provided by MHSAA/Cara Kamps)

As if that wasn't enough, he tacked on another 124 yards through the air on 7-of-8 passing. That included a 25-yard touchdown toss to Anderson Keeler in the second quarter.

"I'm incredibly proud of the leader Haylen has become the last four years," Blauvelt said. "As he matured, he's become a true leader both through his actions and through his words. He was awesome this year from that standpoint.

"Athletically, we all know he's extremely gifted. But to see him lead his team this weekend in the manner that he did is what I'm proud of the most."

Speaking for himself and the other seniors on the roster, Buell said the state championship "means everything."

"This is what we strive for each and every year," he said. "The workouts to get here start each year in March. I think every senior was at every single workout. It showed up here."

Although the game turned out to be a one-sided romp, it didn't start that way.

In fact, it was B-M (11-2) that struck first, taking its opening possession 90 yards in 13 plays, culminating with a 3-yard run by Brady Kieff. A conversion run by Kieff gave the Mustangs an 8-0 lead with 6:30 left in the opening quarter.

It didn't take Martin long to respond, however, as less than three minutes later Buell capped the Clippers' opening drive with his 3-yard TD run. He also had the ensuing conversion run, knotting the score at 8-8.

see Clippers, Page B3

Wayland's Wolf, Hamilton's Popma win titles at Division 3 State Finals

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

HOLLAND—Wayland senior Laney Wolf ended her high school swimming career the same way she started it.

As a state champion.

Wolf, who won two individual Division 3 state titles as a freshman and another as a sophomore, took home the top prize in the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 50.6 at the D3 Finals on Saturday, Nov. 22.

Wolf also finished second in the 50 free at 23.2 and was part of two relay teams that finished in the top eight, meaning she earned All-State four times.

That performance by Wolf helped Wayland secure a top-10 finish as a team, with the Wildcats placing ninth with 97 points. Hamilton finished one spot higher, snagging eighth place with 107 points.

Plainwell was 24th with 16 points, while Otsego and Allegan tied for 31st with three points.

For Wolf, her State Finals resume in her individual events now looks like this: two state titles in the 100 free; two state titles in the 50 free; two runner-up finishes in the 50 free; and two third-place finishes in the 100 free.

In her relays this year, Wolf joined with Ariana Longstreet, Stella VanWyk and Sybil Williamson to place fourth in the 200 free relay at 1:39.94. Wolf, Kaeli Whip, VanWyk and Williamson placed seventh in the 400 free relay at 3:44.04.

Wolf wasn't the only local state champion this year.

Rather, Hamilton diver Josi Popma also took top honors in her event, scoring 399.7 points. That edged out Chelsea's Anna McAllister by just 1.5 points.

In an interview with the Michigan High School Athletic Association, Popma admitted to being nervous heading into the finals.

"I came in today feeling really stressed and didn't think I could do this," she said. "I just had to remind myself to just go out there and approach it like I do every other day and be confident.

"Just being with my friends and teammates and keeping a positive attitude are what carried me through."

First-year Hamilton coach Liz Vandewege praised Popma's performance.

"It's been a long road for Josi," Vandewege said. "As a freshman, she qualified for state and was overwhelmed by the moment. Last year as a sophomore, she proved she could move up the ranks.

"During the offseason, she worked hard to get a bigger list of dives to compete with Anna (McCallister), who is a great diver. She really improved her technique this year, is really strong and has lot of God-given abilities to spin."

Popma's Hamilton teammate, Maya Miller, missed out on earning All-State in diving by one spot, as she finished ninth with 326.75 points.

Longstreet finished 11th in diving (308.25) for Wayland.

Alyssa Volkers was another standout performer for Hamilton.

In addition to placing second in the 200 free at 1:54.41 and taking third in the 500 free at 5:14.13.

Volkers also helped the Hawkeyes earn All-State in the 200 free relay. Joining with Keira Volkers, Adaline Garvelink and Paige Kleinheksel, Alyssa Volkers led Hamilton to seventh place in the event at 1:41.11.

For Plainwell, freshman Sophia VanHeest had a strong showing at her first State Finals. She was ninth in the 500 free (5:22.28) and 10th in the 200 free (1:59.4).

Otsego senior Hope Stender was 14th in the 200 free at 2:01.55, while Allegan senior Elize DeLaet placed 14th in the 50 free at 25.07.

"Eliza capped off her high school swimming career with an outstanding performance at the State Finals," Allegan coach Carol Gephart said. "Her strong showing at the state meet reflects years of dedication, leadership and commitment to the Allegan girls swim program."

Wayland's Laney Wolf won the D3 state title in the 100-yard freestyle and was second in the 50 free. (Photo provided)

Hamilton junior Josi Popma finished atop the standings for diving at the D3 State Finals. (Photo provided)

B&C Trophy and Apparel, Inc. ATHLETE of the WEEK

Haylen Buell
Martin
Football

Haylen Buell has been the Martin football team's primary offensive weapon all season, and that didn't change in the 8-Player Division 1 State Finals on Saturday, Nov. 22.

In the title game, Buell rushed for 179 yards and three touchdowns on nine carries to go with 134 passing yards an another TD to lead the Clippers to the 52-8 victory.

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Girls Basketball Season Preview:

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

ALLEGAN

New.

That just might be the word of the season for Allegan under the guidance of first-year coach Ernie Ramirez.

"We lost six seniors out of eight varsity players from last year, so the majority of the players are new to the varsity level," Ramirez said. "There's also a new coach with a new system and a new way of doing things.

"So, this will be a season of transition."

Indeed it will.

Senior forward Jayden VandenAkker and senior point guard Elijah Ziemelis are the only two holdovers from last year's team, which posted a 14-8 record.

"Last year's seniors led the team to a great final year under Coach Sharron Thompson," Ramirez said.

Newcomers who are expected to see significant playing time include junior forward Sydney Cooley and freshman forward Camden Drozd.

"We have had a core group of three players who have done the extra and have helped me get the rest caught up before our first game has been critical," Ramirez said. "I can see some talent, we just have to get the girls the floor time they need to feel comfortable using those skills."

Among the skills Ramirez is most excited about are quickness to the defensive gaps and a group of forwards who can get to the basket.

"Free throw shooting will be something we will need to work on before, during and after practice," Ramirez said.

Learning to play in at a high level at the end of the game will be an area of focus for the young Tigers.

"I feel we will be very competitive in our division, but it's those close games and closing them out with a young team that will be critical for our season," Ramirez said.

Jayden VandenAkker (right) fights for the ball in a game for Allegan last season. (File photo)

FENNVILLE

Three returning players will be asked to lead the way for Fennville this season.

Senior Lily Achterhof, junior Ceeley Howard and sophomore Amiyah Johnson—all guards—are back after playing big roles for the Blackhawks last season.

The rest of the team is comprised of seven newcomers to the varsity level.

"Though we do have more depth this season compared to last season, one of the concerns is lack of experience with only two returning starters," Fennville coach Cory Howard said.

Newcomers include the first-year senior trio of guard Marisol Diaz, Atiyah Chambers and Christina Sanchez Hernandez.

Junior forwards Adriana Hicks and Veda Seward also join the team, as do freshman guards Leslie Hernandez and Candela Ruiz Martinez.

"Our expectations are to compete, play hard and play together every game for four quarters," Cory Howard said.

Cory Howard expects South Haven to be the favorite in the race for the divisional title.

HOPKINS

After putting together an outstanding hoops career at Hopkins that saw her earn All-Conference two times, Kennedy Helderop went on to star at Cornerstone University. At CU, she averaged 9.9 points as a senior, leading the Golden Eagles in assists and steals.

Now, Helderop is back home in Hopkins, having been named the Vikings' new head coach.

"I'm looking forward to starting my coaching journey," Helderop said.

Last season, the Vikings finished with an overall record of just below .500 at 11-12. But Hopkins went 9-5 in the OK Silver, placing the Vikings in the top portion of the final league standings.

With some key players returning this season coupled with some talented newcomers, Helderop is hoping to be in the mix for the top spot in the conference.

"We expect to be in the top three along with Calvin Christian and Belding," she said.

Back for the Vikings are seniors Cora Hall, Reegan Helderop, Ali Langlois and Kelsey Burgess along with junior Aliza Kerber.

"We should be a quick team that will be hard to beat our opponent down the court," Coach Helderop said. "We expect to be a top contender in our conference because of that."

Sophomore center Natalie Geers and freshman guard Claire Brenner are among the newcomers who will be expected to make an impact.

"Our team focus is on defense and that's where we will be at our best," Coach Helderop said. "We are also looking at bettering our half-court offense."

MARTIN

After a six-year run as head coach that included three district championships and a regional title, Ben Schipper decided to step away from the Martin bench in order to spend more time with his young family.

The Clippers didn't have to look very far for his replacement.

Eric Zudweg, who served as an assistant coach under Schipper last year, has been elevated to the top position.

"I'm very excited for this opportunity and very excited about the girls on this team," Zudweg said. "I think we have the potential for a great season."

Zudweg has six returning players from a team that went 11-13 last season and finished third in the SAC Central with a 5-5 mark.

Those returning players are led by the senior trio of forward/center Marybeth Ritchie, guard/forward Torryn Harris and guard Alley Bacon. Juniors Anna Jager (guard/forward), Kayden Jager (guard) and Maggie Jager (forward/center) also return.

"We have six strong returners who all played consistent minutes last year bring back a lot of experience," Zudweg said.

Having six returning players is the good news for Zudweg.

The bad news? Sophomore forward/center Aliyah DeGlopper is the lone newcomer, leaving the roster at seven.

"It is a concern that we only have seven players on the varsity team," Zudweg said. "But we'll use the five-quarter rule (allowing JV players to see some time at the varsity level) when able to add some more depth.

"But we are truly a balanced team 1-7, with all seven having the ability to be the leading scorer any given night."

Zudweg views defending SAC Central champion Saugatuck to be the favorite in the division once again this season.

"Saugatuck is the team to beat in the division with some of the returners they have and the fact that they are the defending champs," he said. "Gobles and Galesburg-Augusta are also strong conference opponents.

"There were a lot of close games in conference last year, and I expect it to be the same this season."

Torryn Harris (24) is one of six returning players for Martin. (File photo)

OTSEGO

Last season, Otsego coach Tony Koshar was dealing with the loss of eight seniors from the 2023-24 squad.

The situation looks much different this season, as the Bulldogs lost just two players to graduation from a year ago.

"After a growth year last season with a bunch of first-year varsity players, we are excited about what lies ahead this year," said Koshar, who guided Otsego to a 13-10 record last season, including a 9-5 mark in the Wolverine Conference that was good for third place.

Seven players return for the Bulldogs, led by senior guard Audrey Lingbeek and junior guard Brooke Smalldon.

"Having seven girls with some pretty good varsity experience allows us to do a little more in terms of our approach to the game," Koshar said. "We expect to be in the thick of the things in the Wolverine conference, which is a little more wide open than it's been the last four or five years.

"We are also hoping to make a run in the tournament at the end of the year."

Junior guards Madden Fitzpatrick and Peyton Johnson join Lingbeek and Smalldon as returning players, as do junior guard/forward Mya Engbers, junior forward Malania Miller and sophomore guard Olivia Hildebrand.

Newcomers include junior guards Annika Quakenbush and Madelyn Goodwin.

"Athleticism should be a strength," Koshar said. "We don't have the traditional back-to the-basket type player this year, but we do have an abundance of athletic length which should offset that.

"Then just having the experience back with a four-year player in Audrey, three-year players in Brooke and Madden and the experience Olivia, Peyton, Mya and Malania gained last year."

Shooting the ball will be a focus for the Bulldogs.

"I think we may see a decent amount of zone from opponents this year, so shooting is a concern that may end up being a strength," Koshar said.

In the Wolverine Conference, Koshar believes the graduation of several key players from Vicksburg and Paw Paw could change the landscape of the title hunt.

"I would expect us to be in the mix for a championship along with Plainwell, Edwardsburg, Sturgis and Niles," he said. "Vicksburg and Paw Paw lost some college-level players, but are good programs so I would expect them to be a tough out also."

PLAINWELL

First-year head coach Elexis Buchanan has high hopes for Plainwell this season.

"We have an active group of young, hardworking individuals who continuously and eagerly seek more knowledge and experience," she said. "As long as they keep that mentality and never grow tired of learning, my staff and I will always be willing and ready to teach."

Buchanan, who takes over for Mark Stephenson, comes to Plainwell with 16 years of coaching experience, including eight years as a sub-varsity coach at Kalamazoo Central. As a player, she was a four-year letter winner at Loy Norrix and went on to play collegiately at Wayne State University.

She inherits a team that went 9-12 overall a year ago, with a 5-9 mark in the Wolverine Conference.

■ see Girls Hoops, Page B3

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Girls Hoops ■ from Page B2

"We're a young group that's continually growing and will learn more about ourselves each week as we figure out how to utilize all the pieces we have," Buchanan said. "The progress is a process, and we're building something strong for the future of Plainwell basketball.

"I expect nothing less than greatness. My team's goal is to win more league games than the previous season and to have a winning percentage of more than .600."

The return of some key players should help the Trojans' cause.

Senior guards Alyssa Weldon and Anna Schierbeek are back, as are juniors Anna Overway (forward/center), Kaylee VanAtter (guard), Alayna Ranney (guard/forward) and Tessie Kiel (forward).

Newcomers include senior center Blanka Bolinska, junior guard/forward Ella Petik, sophomore guards Emma Rayman and Mai Nguyen and the freshmen trio of Erica Klein (forward), Olivia Wagner (guard/forward) and Leigha Weldon (guard).

"This year's squad brings a unique blend of athleticism and chemistry that continues to fuel their progress," Buchanan said. "One of the team's greatest strengths is its speed, an advantage that shows up in transition play and defensive pressure.

"With several multi-sport athletes on the roster, players are able to transfer skills learned in other sports directly onto the basketball court, giving the team added versatility and game sense. Equally important, the athletes share a strong bond off the court. Their friendships translate into trust, communication, and a natural cohesion during competition—qualities that elevate their performance and keep the team moving in a positive direction.

As a newcomer to coaching in Plainwell, Buchanan wasn't sure who to pick as the favorite to win the Wolverine Conference title, but …

"I believe that this conference has some pretty tough contenders, and I want Plainwell to be among the teams at the top of that list this year," she said.

Junior Brooke Smalldon is expected to be one of Otsego's top players this year. (File photo)

SAUGATUCK

New season.

Same goals for Saugatuck and head coach Kevin Tringali.

"We're really proud of what we've built around here and we look forward to continue to compete for championships," Tringali said.

Saugatuck enters the 2025-26 campaign having won the past two divisional title in addition to claiming a district title last year.

"We really like this team," Tringali said. "They are athletic and pretty quick. We just have to put these kids in the right spots to be successful.

"If we can do that and we're able to stay healthy, we feel like we can make a run for third consecutive division title and fight for a second consecutive district championship."

The loss of four-year starter Kennedy Gustafson—who graduated with more than 1,000 career points and 1,000 career rebounds—leaves an obvious void.

But the return of the three-headed guard group of seniors Natalia Laskowski and Penny Grob and junior Mylah Simpson gives the Trailblazers quite a competitive advantage.

Simpson was First Team All-State last season, Simpson was Second Team All-State and Grob was All-Conference.

"I feel like when healthy, our three-guard combo of Natalia, Penny and Mylah Simpson are as good as any around," Tringali said. "Our concern, or course, is our depth in the post."

In addition to the loss of Gustafson, Saugatuck also is without Maggie Loomis (moved out of district) and Nova DeGraff (injured).

A group of newcomers that includes 6-foot-2 junior Lauren Grant, 5-foot-11 freshman Charlee Gustafson and 5-foot-9 senior Chloe Collins should help.

Returning senior Ashtyn O'Neil will also be in that mix.

"Losing Kennedy is tough, but we are confident we can develop Lauren, Chloe and Charlie and Ashtyn," Tringali said.

Senior Jordan Sanders also returns, while classmate Ada Roth is on the roster after missing the past two seasons with ACL injuries.

"She wants to finish her career strong," Tringali said of Roth.

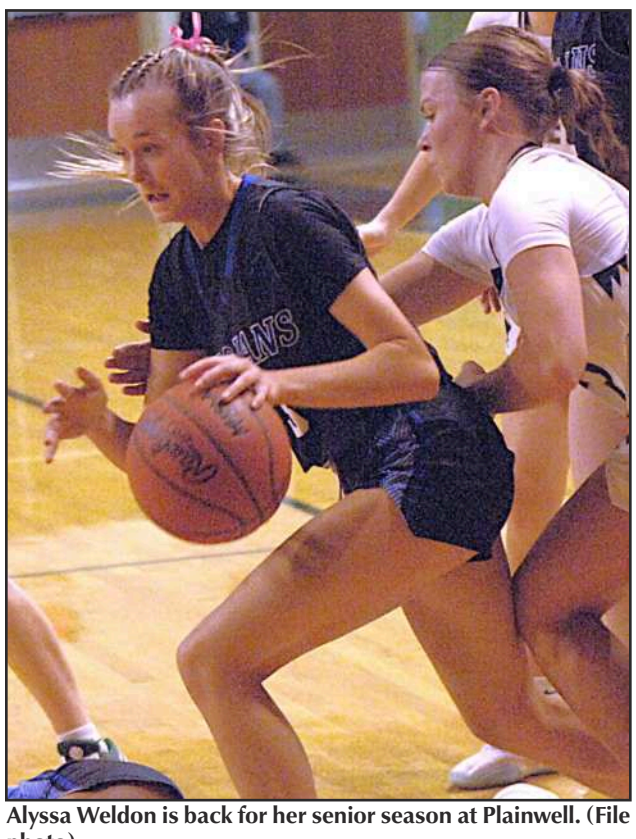
The Trailblazers finished 23-2 last season, including a 10-0 record in the SAC Central.

"This season, (the SAC Central) is really up for grabs," said Tringali, who carries a 184-104 career mark as a girls varsity coach. "Martin and Gobles have been traditionally really tough, but I would not look past Galesburg Augusta or Black River either. It comes down to who stays healthy, as it always does."

WAYLAND

Few teams will be able to match the level of experience Wayland has this season.

A total of 11 players are back from last year's 13-9 squad, including eight seniors.



Alyssa Weldon is back for her senior season at Plainwell. (File photo)

"The overall look of our team is an older, experienced group," Wayland coach Wes Hudson said. "As we did lose a great player in Harmony Laker, these upperclassmen are ready to continue what last year's seniors left behind and continue to help our program strive."

That senior group includes guards Laney Wolf, Hayden Keena and Dacey Schaefer, forwards Charlotte Markoski, Kennedy Lown and Rae Stallard, guard/forward Kaylee Lown and center Addi Sikorski.

Junior guard Marissa Ainsworth, junior center Lauren Bultsma and sophomore guard/forward Charity Laker also return.

"We have a very fast, dynamic and aggressive team that I think will give some teams fits with the pressure we are able to apply," Hudson said. "The group is eager and ready to learn and then apply it to everything that we do.

"I love the leadership and care that this team has for one another. One thing that we always talk about is that our team has no grade levels. We have leaders and everyone has the ability to lead in their own way."

Freshman guard Jordan Grevenstuk is a newcomer who could make an impact.

"Our biggest strength is going to be our defense," Hudson said. "Our group can run and pressure better than any group of girls that I have coached so far, and that's a testament to the players and the work that they put in outside of the season to become the best athletes that they can be."

With that defense leading the way, the Wildcats hope to be in contention for an OK Golf championship.

"We have so many great teams and coaches in the Gold, so each game is a battle and everyone is always competing like it's the last game they play," Hudson said. "I am thankful for the great coaches in our league that continue to pour into the athletes to help them compete at the highest level possible.

"It is so much fun to compete in this league and can't wait until we can get games started."

Hudson thinks South Christian, West Catholic and Middleville will also be contenders in the league.

NOTE: *No preview information was received from Hamilton prior to deadline.*

Clippers ■ from Page B1

Following Watson's long scoring run after Suk's fumble recovery to start the second quarter, the Clippers added three more TDs in the stanza: Buell's 44 yard run, a 1-yard run by Seth Toris and the pass from Buell to Keeler.

That upped Martin's lead to 38-8 at halftime.

"We had a really good game plan going into the week," Blauvelt said. "Our coaching staff did a phenomenal job preparing in really short amounts of time. We liked this matchup. We believe strength of schedule goes a long way when it comes down to playoffs, and if you look at theirs and look at ours, there is a clear difference between the two.

"We were confident. When we got past Kingston (in the state semifinals), we felt very confident about this game."

Martin's first possession of the second half resulted in one of its few mistakes: an interception.

But the Clippers weren't down long, as they got a 52-yard touchdown run from Weson Elkins on their next possession to push the lead to 46-8. And with that, the running clock began as the lead surpassed 35 points.

"We did some good things, I thought, first quarter, first couple drives," B-M coach Tim Webb said. "But we needed to play almost flawless to be able to compete. Their seniors just kind of control the game. Line of scrimmage, they controlled the offense and defense. They tackled better than we did. And I got to give them credit for that."

Watson added 111 rushing yards on six carries to go with 68 receiving yards on two catches. Toris had two receptions for 27 yards.

Martin held a 498-188 edge in total yards, as the Clipper defensive unit limited the Mustangs to nine first downs.

"Our defense is different," Blauvelt said. "This is our best defense that we think we had. And we held our hat on that. We like to be physical."

Buell and Keeler were in on seven tackles to lead the Clippers, followed by Watson, Toris and Suk with six each.

Martin players take the field for the start of the 8-Player Division 1 State Finals. (Photo provided by MHSAA/Cara Kamps)

Winterfest brings family fun to Felt Mansion in Laketown Twp

The sights and sounds of the holidays will fill the halls of the century-old Felt Mansion during the annual Winterfest on Saturday, Dec. 6, 2025.

The event is part of season of celebration at the estate, 6597 138th Ave., in Laketown Township.

Winterfest is from 1-4 p.m. and is sponsored by the Laketown Township Parks and Recreation Commission.

During the event, the mansion is open for free self-guided tours through the decorated rooms. Santa and Mrs. Claus welcome the young ones who want to pose for photos. The Holland Chorale Dickens Singers provide the holiday music. Cookies, coffee and cocoa will be available. Outside, wagon rides by Smallegan Farms will take people around the property, and reindeer will be on display.

"Winterfest might be my favorite event of the whole season. It's the perfect kickoff to the holidays — grandparents, parents, and kids together, laughing, exploring, and making memories," said Elizabeth McEwen, executive director of the Felt Estate. "Those multigenerational moments are exactly why we do what we do. It brings the community together in the best way."

The event is free, but donations are appreciated and will go toward the restoration of the front portico.

The portico, a columned front entrance that serves as the grand threshold into the Georgian Revival mansion, is suffering from age-related deterioration. Cracked masonry, settling foundations, and water damage threaten both its appearance and its stability. Repairs are estimated in the hundreds of thousands of dollars and will require specialized materials and craftsmanship to restore the structure in keeping with its historic integrity.

Winterfest began in 2009 to mark Laketown Township's 150th anniversary.

Holiday tours

Guided and self-guided tours are available throughout the holiday season.

The mansion is decorated with more than 60 Christmas trees and more than 50,000 lights and candles for the holidays. Garlands and wreaths adorn the mantles, staircases and doors.

Self-Guided Tours: 4-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Dec. 3, 10, 17; Monday, Dec. 29, and Tuesday, Dec. 30; and Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026. Adults (18 and up) $18, Seniors (60 and up) $15, Adolescents (8-17) $12; Children (7 and under) free.

Coffee & Cocoa Self-Guided Tours: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sundays, Dec. 7, 14, 21 and 28; and Saturdays Dec. 27 and Jan. 3, 2026. Adults (18 and up) $20, Seniors (60 and up) $18, Adolescents (8-17) $15; Children (7 and under) free.

Tea & Tours (Guided): 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Thursdays, Dec. 4, 11 and 18. Tickets $25.

Candlelight Guided Tours: 5 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Fridays, Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26 and Jan. 2, 2026. Tickets $25.

Self-guided tours typically last about an hour and tour booklets are available at check-in. Self-guided tour admission can be reserved online or paid upon arrival.

Guided tours must be reserved online, and typically last one to one-and-a-half hours.

About the mansion

Construction on the mansion began in 1925 by Dorr Felt, inventor of the Comptometer, the first machine that could do all four math functions — add, subtract, multiply and divide. The building was finished in 1928.

Felt's wife, Agnes, died in 1928, six weeks after the house was complete. Dorr died two years later.

The property went on to serve as a minor seminary for the Augustinian order (attended by Pope Leo XIV), a state prison, and a Michigan State Police post before the property was purchased by Laketown Township.

Today, following years of restoration by the Friends of the Felt Estate, the mansion is a top cultural, educational, and event destination, welcoming thousands of visitors annually.

Follow Laketown Township on Facebook, Instagram and Threads.

Obituary

Blair Camp Van Oss

Blair Camp Van Oss passed with family by his side in Holland Hospital on November 17 2025. Blair was born on September 26, 1952, to Julius and Janet Van Oss. He spent his years growing up in Saugatuck graduating from Saugatuck High School in 1971. He worked for the City of Saugatuck Public Works for 43 faithful years. He enjoyed his motorcycles, hunting,

Blair Camp Van Oss

and New Richmond area.

Survivors are his two sons Brent (Cris) and Shannon (Jaclyn) of Fennville; 3 grandchildren Michael Lewis, Darian Van Oss, and Taylor Van Oss; a brother Jim (Rhonda) Van Oss, and sister Julie Cullom; and two nieces Flora and Caitlin.

Cremation has taken place and private burial at a date in 2026.

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Peek at the Past

From the pages of The Allegan News and The Allegan County News and Gazette:

Nov. 27, 1950

Infirmary staff quits, working hours blamed: The state labor board may be called in to settle the dispute which last week left the county infirmary with a hastily organized skeleton staff, it was indicated today.

An almost complete change in the staff occurred last Wednesday when six infirmary employees resigned at the same time.

The workers said they quite because—after being granted an eight-hour schedule—they were then made to continue on the old 12-hour schedule with no additional help.

Leon Godfrey, manager of the farm, got a skeleton crew together and the residents got their Thanksgiving turkey and pies—but they were turned out by new cooks.

Mrs. Mabel Day, matron for the past four years, two cooks, a housekeeper and two farm workers resigned. None of the hospital staff left, however, and working conditions were reportedly just as bad.

Nov. 27, 1975

Hunter-Tripp trip Smythe-Abrams for title: Rick Hutner and Bill Tripp were awarded cash prizes as first-place winners in the Men's Bridge Tournament at an awards dinner Thursday night (Nov. 20) at Ot-Well-Egan Country Club.

The wining team maintained the lead throughout the eight-week tournament sponsored by the Peace Unit of the Women's Hospital Service League.

Hutner and Tripp scored 32,200 points, followed by Tom Smythe and Jeff Abrams, 30,150; Ray Nahikian and Jack Williams, 27,230; Ted Hunter and Jim Pettapiece, 27,180; and Peter Braceman and Henry Barber, 23,960.

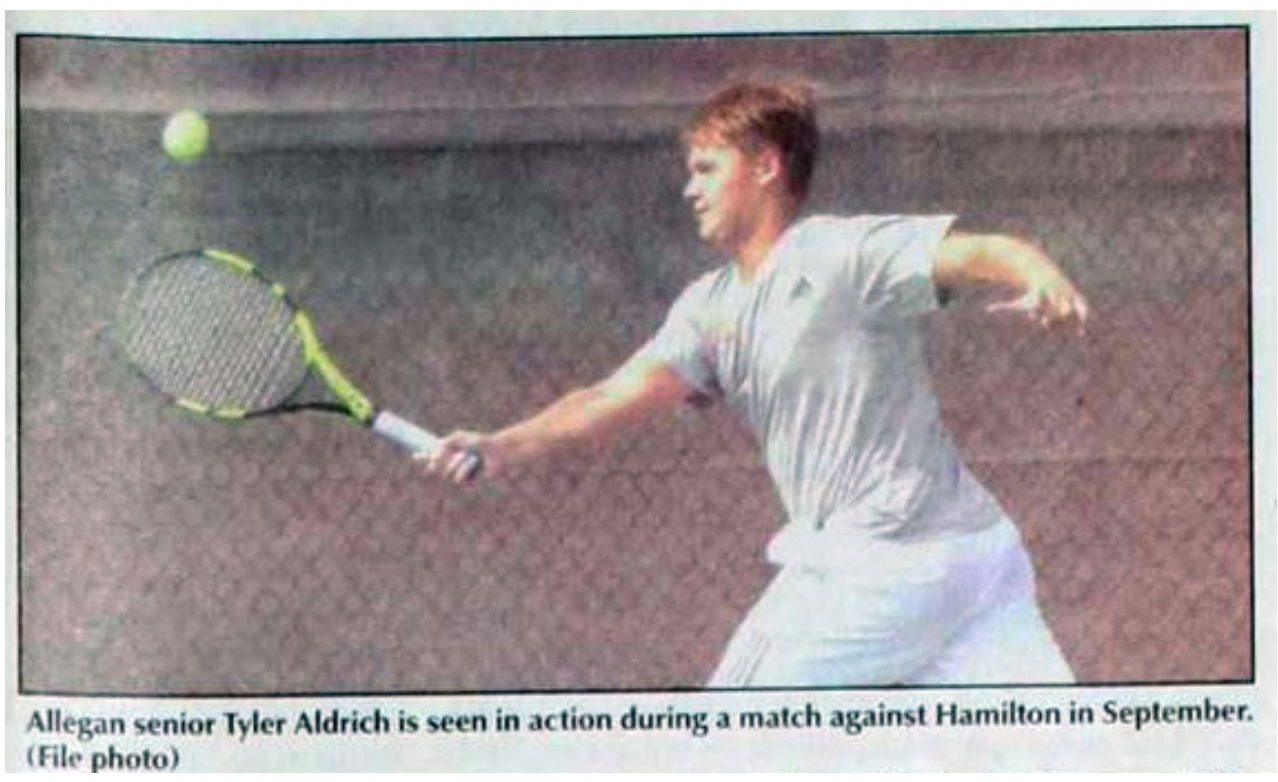
Nancy Aisnworth also awarded prizes for the best defensive team, Ted Hunter and Pettapiece, who allowed their opponents only 15,970 points, to Rick Hunter and Tripp, whose total point margin over their combined opponents was 11,860 and to Ted Hunter and Pattapiece whose point difference for the season was 11,210.

Nov. 30, 2000

Allegan council okays tattoo, body piercing parlor downtown: When a tattooist asked in November for a special use permit to open a shop in downtown Allegan, the request barely made a ripple among officials or the public. The city already had on the books and ordinance covering the practices of tattooing and body piercing.

According to interim city manager, Lisa Sutterfield, Allegan was ready because of troubles in the past with tattoo parlors in neighboring cities without the necessary ordinances. Elegant amended its amusement and entertainment ordinance on July 14, 1997, adding 36 sections on tattooing and body piercing.

"We wanted to see to it that if it ever happened in Allergan, we were prepared for it," Sutterfield said.



Allegan senior Tyler Aldrich is seen in action during a match against Hamilton in September. (File photo)

The city planning commission voted Monday, Nov. 20, to recommend approval of the special use permit to the city council. Bill Northrup dissented in the five – one vote without comment.

Before the matter went before the city council, a neon sign and window lettering advertised the tattoo shop at 140 Brady between Sports Cards and More and Allegan Printing. Samples of available tattoos covered the walls behind the shops locked doors.

Tattooist Eddie Mings had already opened his shop once. The city closed it pending the special use permit. Mings told the planning commission he came to Allegan from Benton Harbor to escape gangs. He lives on Allett Street near the Kalamazoo River.

"There's not a bunch of bikers running in and out with naked women on the back of their bikes," he said.

Nov. 26, 2020

Allegan's Tyler Aldrich named Mr. Tennis in Division 3: Each year, the Michigan High School Athletic Association presents the Bod Wood Mr. Tennis Award to top senior tennis player in the state.

And this year's nominee from Division 3 was none other than Allegan's Tyler Aldrich, marking the first time an Allegan player has accomplished that feat.

"Because our has had so much success over the years, rarely do we see something new," Allegan boys' tennis co-coach Seth Arthur said. "So for Tyler to be the first player to be named Mr. Tennis for Division 3 is just special. And it's so well deserved for a young man who had a great senior season and a great career.

"He had impressive wins throughout the season, a few that we really relied upon, so this award we feel is a perfect way to signify how Tyler's tennis game has grown."

Aldrich finished his senior year with an 18-7 record that included Wolverine Conference and regional championships. He was also one of eight players in Division 3 selected to participate in the No. 1 Singles Tournament.

For his career, Aldrich went 75-29 with three conference championships and two regional titles. He also was a key part of Allegan's 2019 Division 4 state championship.

Despite those accolades, Aldrich wasn't expecting the Mr. Tennis honor.

"I was really surprised when it was announced that I was awarded Mr. Tennis for Division 3," he said. "Then I heard the other winners in the other divisions and I was honored to be included. The other guys are really strong players that play year around and have very high rankings. So, I was really shocked to be included with them.

"It's pretty cool to end my high school tennis career with this award. I never dreamed it would happen."

Tennis has been a family affair for Aldrich—who also plays basketball and baseball at Allegan in addition to excelling in the classroom (4.2 GPA) and being involved in community service—as his mother Jen was the No. 1 singles player for Allegan during her high school days before playing at Western Michigan University. Jen Aldrich now serves as the girls' tennis coach in Allegan and has been co-coach of the boys' team the past two years.

—Compiled by Jason Wesseldyk

Bridge Tournament prizes were awarded to first place team members Rick Hunter and Bill Tripp (right) and runners-up, Jeff Abrams and Tom Smythe (left) at a dinner last Thursday at Ot-Well-Egan Country Club, by Nancy Ainsworth, representing the Peace Unit of the Women's Hospital Service League, sponsors of the annual event.

—News & Gazette photo

Deaths

Nov. 7, 2025

DAVID PAUL MOSES, 67, Plainwell

KEVIN EDWARD TOURANGEAU, 66, Otsego Twp.

ALAN DOUGLAS OLSON, 86, Casco Twp.

Nov. 8, 2025

DAVID ANTHONY KELLUM, 71, Casco Twp.

Nov. 9, 2025

VIOLET LOUISE STEINMAN, 97, Allegan Twp.

Nov. 10, 2025

FELIX JOE SURVILLA, 94, Trowbridge Twp.

MARLENE ALMA TYINK, 87, Laketown Twp.

Nov. 12, 2025

DONALD ALBERT VANDENBERG, 98, Holland

Nov. 13, 2025

GLENN A WILEY, 88, Allegan

DOUGLAS EDWARD LAIDLAW, 74, Plainwell

Nov. 14, 2025

BRYAN MICHAEL FISCHER, 54, Fennville

Marriages

The following people applied for a marriage license between Nov. 11 and Nov. 19:

ADISON ANNE TURPIN, Allegan, and **RONALD BLAKE LARUE**, Allegan

SCOTT ALAN BRINKERHOFF, Plainwell, and **JENNIFER SUZANNE HELDER**, Plainwell

ADAM GLENN HAVENS, Wayland, and **CHRISTINA LYNN LARSEN**, Wayland

STEPHEN JOHN DAVIDSON, Wayland, and **MIRANDA LYN BYER**, Wayland

KYLE JOSEPH PERRIN, Otsego, and **DANIELLE GRACE TELLMAN**, Otsego

STEPHANIE MARIE ROBERTSON, Plainwell, and **CHRISTIAN EDWARD STINSON**, Plainwell

ELIZABETH ANN BROMLEY, Dorr, and **BRANDON ARLAN RAS-DEVRIES**, Otsego

JESSICA MARY FORMAN, Allegan, and **ANDREW EDMUND AZIZ**, Allegan

SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

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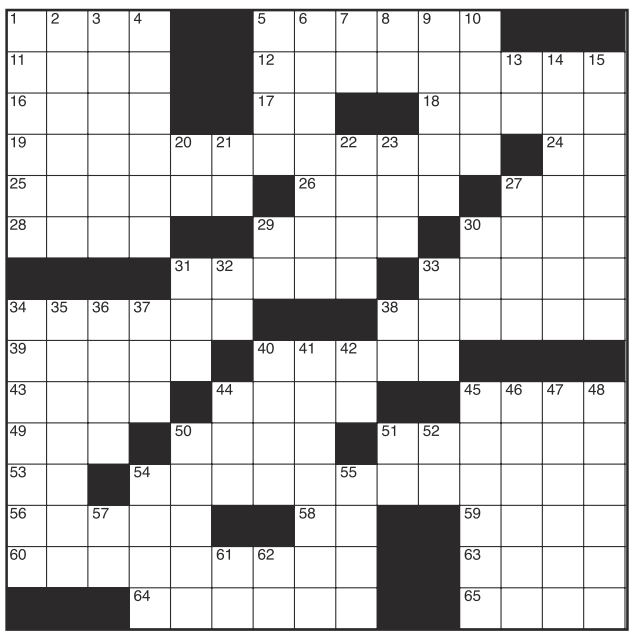
			7		3			
				1		7		4
8								9
	7		4		8			
5		9	3					7
7		2				1		
		4						
					9	8		

(See Solution Page B7)

Crossword



CLUES ACROSS

1. Popular wine __ Spumante
5. Greatly impressed
11. __ and that
12. Uttered with passion
16. Boats
17. Veteran actor Harris
18. Casserole with game
19. Reprehensible acts
24. They precede C
25. Says under one's breath
26. Taxis
27. It transfers genetic info
28. NFL great Randy
29. Where college students sleep
30. Major European river
31. Taco condiment
33. -frutti
34. Polish city
38. Astronomy unit
39. Khoikhoin peoples
40. Bears QB Williams
43. Scrambled, fried, boiled
44. Price indicators
45. One-time world power
49. When you hope to get somewhere
50. Farm building
51. Choose carefully
53. Magnum was one
54. One who combines
56. Nursemaids
58. Partner to Pa
59. Notable river
60. Officially honors
63. Colorless compound
64. A fancy chair
65. Email function

CLUES DOWN

1. The central area in a building
2. Religion of Japan
3. Leggings
4. Officially distributes
5. Arabian Sea seaport
6. Spanish doctors
7. It cools your house
8. Currency of Poland
9. Slowly moves into
10. Days (Spanish)
13. Unit of volume
14. Emit
15. With two replaceable hydrogens
20. Title for a man
21. Equally
22. Scarlett's home
23. One-time tech titan
27. Subway dwellers
29. One-tenth of a liter
30. Central European river
31. Distress signal
32. Expression of sympathy
33. The bill in a restaurant
34. Football equipment
35. Dance music
36. Russian river
37. Cosmetics giant Mary __
38. Gym class
40. Automobiles
41. Roman honorific
42. Losses in sports
44. Skin tone in summer
45. Distant planet
46. Critical humor
47. Illegally obtained
48. Go back over
50. Home appliance brand
51. Unit of radioactivity
52. Home of the Flyers
54. Short official note
55. Emit coherent radiation
57. Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)
61. Most common noble gas (abbr.)
62. Toward

■ see **Solution**, Page B7

Public Notices

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on December 4, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Christopher Castro, an unmarried man

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Lake Michigan Credit Union

Date of Mortgage: March 8, 2022

Date of Mortgage Recording: March 10, 2022

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $282,698.18

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Wayland, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Unit 42 in the Wild Flower Ridge, according to the Master Deed thereof, as recorded in Liber 3364, Page 570, Allegan County Records, and any amendments thereto and designated as Allegan County Condominium Subdivision Plan No. 284, together with rights in general common elements and limited common elements as set forth in said Master Deed and as described in Act 59 of the Public Acts of 1978, as amended

Common street address (if any): 835 Wild Flower Ct, Wayland, MI 49348-1480

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: November 6, 2025

Trott Law, P.C.

31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 642-2515

1576324

(11-06)(11-27)

FORECLOSURE NOTICE Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 09:00 AM, December 18, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by James W. Nelson Jr and Margaret F. Nelson to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Nationstar Mortgage LLC, DBA Greenlight Loans, its successors and assigns, Mortgagee, dated June 5, 2015, and recorded on June 16, 2015, in Liber 3936, Page 420, Allegan County Records, said mortgage was assigned to Nationstar Mortgage LLC by an Assignment of Mortgage dated October 14, 2025 and recorded October 21, 2025 in Liber 5079, Page 338, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Sixty-Five Thousand Five Hundred Ten and 64/100 ($65,510.64) including interest at the rate of 4.37500% per annum. Said premises are situated in the Township of Cooper, Allegan County, Michigan, and are described as: Commencing on the East line of the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 5, Town 1 South, Range 11 West, 825 feet North of the Southeast Corner thereof; Thence West 1320 feet more or less parallel with the South line of the said Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter to the West line of the said Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter; Thence North on the said West line 165 feet; Thence East parallel with the first course 1320 feet more or less to the East line of the said Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter; Thence South on the said East line 165 feet to the place of beginning, excepting and reserving any portion on the East side thereof now used for, highway purposes. Commonly known as: 10433 NORTH 16TH STREET, PLAINWELL, MI 49080 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 6.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: November 13, 2025 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Nationstar Mortgage LLC 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 25MI00749-1

(11-13)(12-04)

FORECLOSURE NOTICE Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on December 18, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Michael Allen Hamstra, a single man and Lisa Kruisenga, his wife to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns, Mortgagee, dated April 18, 2008, and recorded on April 22, 2008, in Liber 3225, Page 943, Allegan County Records, said mortgage was corrected by an Affidavit of Scrivener's Error dated September 2, 2025 and recorded September 3, 2025 in Liber 5064, Page 499, Allegan County Records, said Affidavit of Scrivener's Error was corrected by an Affidavit of Scrivener's Error dated September 22, 2025 and recorded September 23, 2025 in Liber 5070, Page 566, Allegan County Records, said mortgage was assigned to U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION by an Assignment of Mortgage dated October 22, 2013 and recorded October 28, 2013 in Liber 3788, Page 758, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Twenty-Two Thousand Seven Hundred Forty-Three and 37/100 ($22,743.37) including interest at the rate of 6.50000% per annum. Said premises are situated in the Township of ALLEGAN, Allegan County, Michigan, and are described as: The East 5 Acres Of The East 10 Acres Of The Southeast 1/4, Northwest 1/4, Section 35, Town 2 North, Range 13 West, Township Of Allegan, Allegan County, Michigan. Commonly known as: 2703 113TH AVENUE, ALLEGAN, MI 49010 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 12.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: November 13, 2025 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 25MI00603-1

(11-13)(12-04)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on January 15, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Michael Allen Hamstra, a single man

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Freedom Mortgage Corporation

Date of Mortgage: May 13, 2022

Date of Mortgage Recording: May 20, 2022

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $494,840.96

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Overisel, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: THE NORTH 2 ACRES OF THE WEST 150 FEET OF THE WEST 1/2 OF THE EAST 1/2 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 34, TOWN 4 NORTH, RANGE 14 WEST.

Common street address (if any): 4050 138th Ave, Hamilton, MI 49419-9768

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: November 20, 2025

Trott Law, P.C.

31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 642-2515

1577958

(11-20)(12-11)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 09:00 AM, December 18, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Richard G. Major Jr., A Single Man to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Ross Mortgage Corporation, its successors and assigns, Mortgagee, dated April 18, 2008, and recorded on April 22, 2008, in Liber 3225, Page 943, Allegan County Records, said mortgage was corrected by an Affidavit of Scrivener's Error dated September 2, 2025 and recorded September 3, 2025 in Liber 5064, Page 499, Allegan County Records, said Affidavit of Scrivener's Error was corrected by an Affidavit of Scrivener's Error dated September 22, 2025 and recorded September 23, 2025 in Liber 5070, Page 566, Allegan County Records, said mortgage was assigned to U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION by an Assignment of Mortgage dated October 22, 2013 and recorded October 28, 2013 in Liber 3788, Page 758, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Twenty-Two Thousand Seven Hundred Forty-Three and 37/100 ($22,743.37) including interest at the rate of 6.50000% per annum. Said premises are situated in the Township of ALLEGAN, Allegan County, Michigan, and are described as: The East 5 Acres Of The East 10 Acres Of The Southeast 1/4, Northwest 1/4, Section 35, Town 2 North, Range 13 West, Township Of Allegan, Allegan County, Michigan. Commonly known as: 2703 113TH AVENUE, ALLEGAN, MI 49010 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 12.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: November 13, 2025 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 25MI00603-1

(11-13)(12-04)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on January 15, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by James R. Land and Nancy L. Land, husband and wife, whose address is 512 Lawrence Street, Otsego, Michigan 49078, as original Mortgagors, to Republic Bank, being a mortgage dated December 4, 1998, and recorded on December 9, 1998 in Liber 1796 Page 989. Said mortgage was modified by a loan modification agreement, recorded July 1, 2021, book 4640 page 57, Allegan County Records, State of Michigan and assigned by said mortgagee through mesne assignments to NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated November 13, 2025 and recorded on November 14, 2025 in Liber 5087 Page 251, Allegan County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of FORTY-TWO THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED NINETY-TWO AND 50/100 DOLLARS ($42,792.50). Said premises are situated in the City of Otsego, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, and are described as: LOT 11 OF RIDGEBROOK SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN LIBER 8 OF PLATS ON PAGE 19. Street Address: 512 Lawrence Street, Otsego, Michigan 49078 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: November 20, 2025 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Robert A. Blumberg (P87490), Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 30 North LaSalle St., Suite 3650 Chicago, Illinois, 60602. Telephone: (312) 541-9710 File No.: MI 25 6820

(11-20)(12-11)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in ALLEGAN County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on December 18, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Jessica Root and Kodi Root, wife and husband, whose address is 229 Charles Street, Otsego, Michigan 49078, as original Mortgagors, to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., as mortgagee, AS NOMINEE FOR PRIMELENDING, A PLAINSCAPITAL COMPANY, being a mortgage dated August 9, 2022, and recorded on August 22, 2022 in Liber 4790 Page 870, Allegan County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated August 4, 2025 and recorded on August 7, 2025 in Liber 5056 Page 496, Allegan County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of TWO HUNDRED TEN THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVEN AND 28/100 DOLLARS ($210,727.28). Said premises are situated in the City of Otsego, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, and are described as: LOTS 6 AND 7, BLOCK 22, ORIGINAL PLAT, SECTION 22 AND 33. ALSO COMMENCING AT A POINT 20 RODS SOUTH OF THE SOUTH LINE OF HAMMOND STREET AND 20 RODS EAST OF THE EAST LINE OF FAIR STREET; THENCE SOUTH PARALLEL WITH FARMER STREET 10 RODS; THENCE EAST PARALLEL WITH HAMMOND STREET, 4 RODS; THENCE NORTH PARALLEL WITH FARMER STREET 10 RODS; THENCE WEST PARALLEL WITH HAMMOND STREET TO BEGINNING, SECTION 23, TOWN 1 NORTH, RANGE 12 WEST, ALSO TOWN 1 NORTH, RANGE 12 WEST, SECTION 23, COMMENCING 12 RODS WEST OF THE WEST LINE OF WILMOTT STREET AND 20 RODS SOUTH OF THE SOUTH LINE HAMMOND STREET; THENCE SOUTH PARALLEL WITH FARMER STREET 10 RODS; THENCE WEST PARALLEL WITH HAMMOND STREET ABOUT 5 RODS; THENCE NORTH PARALLEL WITH FARMER STREET 10 RODS; THENCE EAST AND 5 RODS TO BEGINNING. Street Address: 229 Charles Street, Otsego, Michigan 49078 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: November 20, 2025 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Robert A. Blumberg (P87490), Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 30 North LaSalle St., Suite 3650 Chicago, Illinois, 60602. Telephone: (312) 541-9710 File No.: MI 25 6596

(11-20)(12-11)

STATE OF MICHIGAN

48th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT FAMILY DIVISION

Allegan COUNTY

FILE NO. 25-70540-AY

NOTICE OF HEARING TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

In the matter of. Hunter Allen Blackwood, adoptee

TO:

Christoper Allen Blackwood

2884 Eastern Ave

Grand Rapids, MI 49508

TAKE NOTICE: On December 17, 2025 at 4:00 PM in the Probate courtroom Allegan County Courthouse - 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 before Jolene Clearwater P74848, Judge a hearing will be held on the PETITION TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS. The law provides that you should be notified of this hearing. If you fail to appear at this hearing YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS MAY BE TERMINATED.

If you choose to attend this hearing and you require special accommodations to use the court because of a disability or if you require a foreign language interpreter to help you fully participate in court proceedings, please contact the court immediately to make arrangements.

November 14, 2025

Brian E. Gordon P60432

146 Monroe Center NW, Suite 1225

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

(616) 272-3331

Jennifer Ann Karni

415 Mill St, Apt 4

Wayland, MI 49348

616.498.3729

11-20 12-4

STATE OF MICHIGAN

48th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT FAMILY DIVISION

Allegan COUNTY

FILE NO. 25-70541-AY

NOTICE OF HEARING TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

In the matter of. Dehlylah Mae Blackwood, adoptee

TO:

Christoper Allen Blackwood

2884 Eastern Ave

Grand Rapids, MI 49508

TAKE NOTICE: On December 17, 2025 at 4:00 PM in the Probate courtroom Allegan County Courthouse - 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 before Jolene Clearwater P74848, Judge a hearing will be held on the PETITION TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS. The law provides that you should be notified of this hearing. If you fail to appear at this hearing YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS MAY BE TERMINATED.

If you choose to attend this hearing and you require special accommodations to use the court because of a disability or if you require a foreign language interpreter to help you fully participate in court proceedings, please contact the court immediately to make arrangements.

November 14, 2025

Brian E. Gordon P60432

146 Monroe Center NW, Suite 1225

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

(616) 272-3331

Jennifer Ann Karni

415 Mill St, Apt 4

Wayland, MI 49348

616.498.3729

11-20 12-4

STATE OF MICHIGAN

JUDICIAL DISTRICT

48th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

ALLEGAN COUNTY

ORDER REGARDING ALTERNATE SERVICE

CASE NO. 2025-25153873-GZ and JUDGE Hon. Matthew Antkoviak

Plaintiffs name, address, and telephone no.

MidFirst Bank

c/o Plaintiff's attorney

Plaintiff's attorney, bar 096 address, and telephone no.

Sogol 1. Plagany (P69690)

Orlans Law Group DLLC

P.O. Box 5041

Troy, MI 48007

248-502-1359

v

Defendant's name, address, and telephone no.

Matthew M. Gallas, et al.

THE COURT FINDS:

1. Service of process upon the defendant, Matthew M. Gallas , cannot reasonably be made as provided in MCR 2.105 and service of process may be made in a manner that is reasonably calculated to give the defendant actual notice of the proceedings and an opportunity to be heard.

IT IS ORDERED:

2. Service of the Summons and complaint and a copy of this order shall be made by the following method(s).

a. First class mail to 3373 132nd Avenue, Hopkins, MI 49328

b. Tacking or firmly affixing to the door at 3373 132nd Avenue, Hopkins, MI 49328

d. Other: Publishing for three consecutive weeks in the Allegan County Legal News pursuant to MCR 2.106(D).

Matthew Antkoviak P-5944

11/3/2025

11-20 12-4

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on December 18, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Richard Force, A Married Man

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC.

Date of Mortgage: October 24, 2014

Date of Mortgage Recording: October 30, 2014

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $92,690.45

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Watson, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: That part of the Northeast quarter of Section 26, Town 2 North, Range 12 West, described as:

Commencing at the East quarter corner of said Section 26; thence North 89 degrees 01 minutes 10 seconds West 1948.44 feet along the East-West quarter line to the point of beginning; thence North 00 degrees 04 minutes 44 seconds East 450.00 feet; thence North 62 degrees 09 minutes 20 seconds West 345.00 feet; thence South 02 degrees 52 minutes 38 seconds East 607.22 feet to the East-West quarter line; thence South 89 degrees 01 minutes 10 seconds East 274.00 feet, along said quarter line to the point of beginning.

Common street address (if any): 1477 115th Ave, Otsego, MI 49078-9719

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: November 20, 2025

Trott Law, P.C.

31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 642-2515

1577964

(11-20)(12-11)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on December 18, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Timothy J Kelley, a married man and Linda Kelley, his wife

Original Mortgagee: Independent Mortgage Co. West MI

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): PHH Asset Services LLC

Date of Mortgage: October 23, 2006

Date of Mortgage Recording: October 31, 2006

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $104,263.72

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Overisel, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 9 of Reimink Plat No. 1 according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber/Instrument No. 7 of Plats, Page 69 of Allegan County Records.

Common street address (if any): 4785 Reimink St, Hamilton, MI 49419-9718

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: November 20, 2025

Trott Law, P.C.

31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 642-2515

1577963

(11-20)(12-11)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in ALLEGAN County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on December 18, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by James R. Land and Nancy L. Land, husband and wife, whose address is 512 Lawrence Street, Otsego, Michigan 49078, as original Mortgagors, to Republic Bank, being a mortgage dated December 4, 1998, and recorded on December 9, 1998 in Liber 1796 Page 989. Said mortgage was modified by a loan modification agreement, recorded July 1, 2021, book 4640 page 57, Allegan County Records, State of Michigan and assigned by said mortgagee through mesne assignments to NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated November 13, 2025 and recorded on November 14, 2025 in Liber 5087 Page 251, Allegan County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of FORTY-TWO THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED NINETY-TWO AND 50/100 DOLLARS ($42,792.50). Said premises are situated in the City of Otsego, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, and are described as: LOT 11 OF RIDGEBROOK SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN LIBER 8 OF PLATS ON PAGE 19. Street Address: 512 Lawrence Street, Otsego, Michigan 49078 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: November 20, 2025 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Robert A. Blumberg (P87490), Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 30 North LaSalle St., Suite 3650 Chicago, Illinois, 60602. Telephone: (312) 541-9710 File No.: MI 25 6596

(11-20)(12-11)

STATE OF MICHIGAN

PROBATE COURT

ALLEGAN COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. XXX and JUDGE

Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010

Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250

Estate of Linda Lorraine Birdsall, Deceased Date of Birth:*12/15/1946

TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Linda Lorraine Birdsall, died 03/16/2025.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to David C. Moore, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

11/24/2025

James M. McEwen P53923

550 Lincoln Road

Address Address

Otsego, MI 49078

269/692-3665

David C. Moore

1790 Ariel Drive

Otsego, MI 49078

269-364-3016

STATE OF MICHIGAN

IN THE ALLEGAN COUNTY 48th CIRCUIT COURT

Case No. 25- 70133 -CH

Honorable Judge Matthew Antkoviak

CARRINGTON MORTGAGE SERVICES, LLC,

PLAINTIFF

vs.

Case No. 25- 70133 -CH

Honorable Judge Matthew Antkoviak

GARY E. BURD, HEATHER BURD, LVNV FUNDING LLC; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT,

DEFENDANTS

Court address: 113 Chestnut St, Allegan, MI 49010

ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION/POSTING AND NOTICE OF ACTION

Plaintiff:

CARRINGTON MORTGAGE SERVICES, LLC,

2100 East 196th Street; Suites 100 & 200

Westfield, IN 46074

Plaintiff's Attorney

JOHNSON, BLUMBERG & ASSOCIATES LLC

Robert A. Blumberg (P87490)

Attorney for NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing

30 N. LaSalle Street, STE 3650

Chicago, IL 60602

312-541-9710

Defendant:

Unknown Heirs of Gary E. Burd

437 E. Hammond Street,

Otsego, MI 49078

TO: Unknown Heirs of Gary E. Burd

IT IS ORDERED:

1. You are being sued in this court by the plaintiff to foreclose a mortgage given by you to the plaintiff. You must file your answer or take other action permitted by law in this court at the court address above on or before January 10th, 2026. If you fail to do so, a default judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint filed in this case.

2. A copy of this order shall be published once each week in the Allegan County News for three consecutive weeks, and proof of publication shall be filed in this court.

3. N/A.

4. A copy of this order shall be sent to Unknown Heirs of Gary E. Burd 437 E. Hammond Street, Otsego, MI 49078 at the last known address by registered mail, return receipt requested, before the date of last publication and the affidavit of mailing shall be filed with this court.

Dated 11/17/2025

Judge Matthew Antkoviak

11-27 12-11

STATE OF MICHIGAN

PROBATE COURT

ALLEGAN COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. 25-65877-DE and JUDGE

Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010

Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250

Estate of Roger Merle Mason, Deceased Date of Birth:*07/20/1942

TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITOR

The History of Money

The Bookworm Sez

"The History of Money: A Story of Humanity"

by David McWilliams

c.2025, Henry Holt
$32.99
416 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You must've spent that five bucks that was tucked in your wallet's secret compartment..

Where and when is a good question. A cold drink, a hot one, a snack, who knows? You'll just tuck another Lincoln away and there you go - covered, until the next time you need a fiver and it's not there. So now read "The History of Money" by David McWilliams and be glad you don't have to tote around a bag of seed.

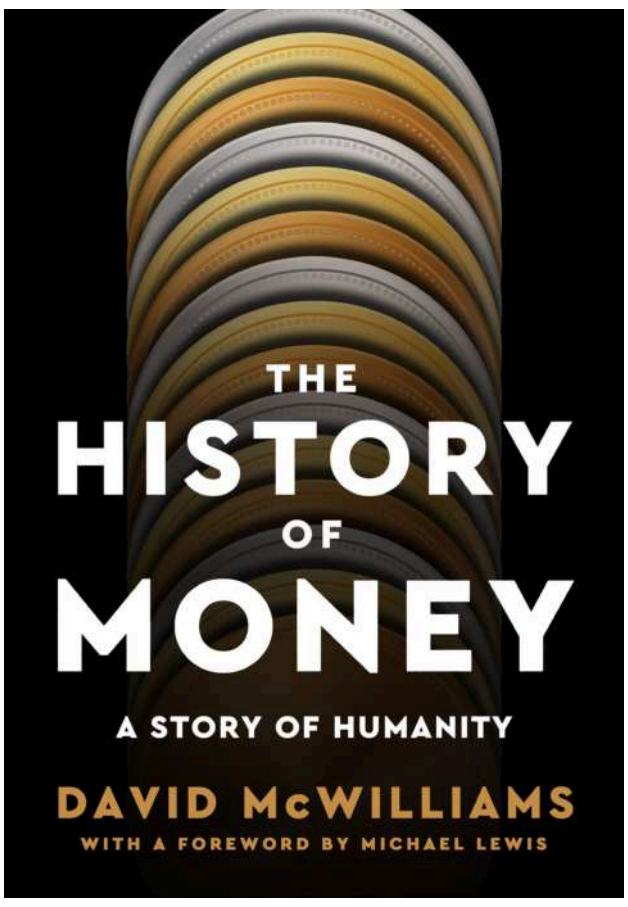
While it's true that we don't know the name of the person who birthed the idea of money, we do know who first devised a scheme to get ahead with it: he was Kushim and, according to the Sumerians, he had a home-brewing business "at some point between 3400 and 3000 BCE." We know this because his was the first name ever recorded in human history.

Some two thousand years later, the Lydians, a civilization from what would become Turkey, invented coins, which helped trading throughout the Greek Empire. Eventually, the system they devised spread as far away as China and India. Coins were readily acceptable, and they made trade easier, says McWilliams, especially between people of different cultures.

The Arabs taught the world algebra, and the British thought the ensuing ability to cypher was "sorcery." Around then, the Hindus had embraced the concept of zero – something Western societies avoided "for centuries."

Merchant bankers appeared in the early 1400s, though the Church considered their practices as usury. Things were different in the Middle Ages when European wealth was measured in land ownership, and the Church lent money with real estate as collateral. If you had no land, by the way, you were allow to spend your money to save your soul "for a small fee."

The movable type printing press ushered in paper money in the mid-fifteenth century, and just like that, printed books for calculating charts were possible. The Chinese invented pawning. French kings caused revolutions because of money.



And then there was crypto…

"Today, whether we like it or not," says author David McWilliams, "our entire world evolves around this strange, invented notion," but what do you know about the foldable necessities in your billfold? "The History of Money" will fill you in, for a price.

No worries; it's money well-spent.

Here, McWilliams turns the story of economies, commodities, cash, and banking into a centuries-long epic that's sometimes gleeful, always lively, and rarely dry. It arrives through pages and pages of surprises from world history, culture, travel, and etymology, told with a winking sense of humor. Chapters are set in smaller, bite-sized segments for ease of enjoyment, and McWilliams brings readers up-to-date with not-so-subtle warnings about cryptocurrency that uneasy readers will want to know. It's like taking a class on economics and banking, only a whole lot more fun.

This book isn't just for business-minded readers; it's also a great book for anyone who loves history and who likes moola. So grab "The History of Money" and dig in. Reading it is time well-spent.

All the books the Bookworm reviews here are available at the sponsor of this column:

Allegan District Library

'Holiday Unveiling' set at Felt

By Jim Hayden
Correspondent

Tickets are still available for the "Holiday Unveiling: Glitz. Glamour. Gatsby!" at the Felt Mansion Saturday, Nov. 29 from 7 to 10 p.m.

Guest can enjoy the dwelling decked up in 25 fully decorated rooms, hallways lined with twinkling lights and garland, and more than 60 Christmas trees ripe with shimmering ornaments.

The event will also raise money for repairs to the century-old structure at 6597 138th Ave. in Laketown Township.

"The mansion," said Felt Estate executive director Elizabeth McEwen, "is in need of critical exterior repairs and restoration. A hundred years of West Michigan weather has done a number on the brick and stonework."

The first priority is restoring the front entrance portico. "The sandstone columns of the grand entrance are cracked and crumbling, the balustrade atop the portico is nearly gone, and the entablature modillions are nearly unrecognizable," she said.

"The original blueprints show a copper roof somewhere under the years of patches and rubber mats," McEwen went on. "We are getting to the point where water is going to infiltrate the house and threaten the interior restoration work that's already been completed."

The Friends of the Felt Estate, the group that oversees the property, recently received a $5,000 National Trust Preservation Fund grant to support an architectural engineering investigation into that front portico.

Glitz. Glamour. Gatsby!

The Holiday Unveiling will be a big way to help preserve the history of the mansion where construction started in 1925, the same year F. Scott Fitzgerald's" American classic "The Great Gatsby" was published.

"A centennial celebration of both seems in order," McEwen said.

Participants will don 1920s-inspired attire and step back into the glamour of the Jazz Age to celebrate the season with live entertainment, period-themed experiences and festive holiday décor. Jeanette Watts will teach flapping moves of the Foxtrot and Charleston.

Tickets are $115 and include appetizers, two drink tickets and a commemorative ornament. There will be a silent auction with gift cards, art, pottery and other gift options. There is also a chance for a weekend stay for up to 12 people at the mansion.

Sponsor opportunities are still available for businesses. For more information or tickets, visit www.feltmansion.org/unveiling.

Tours of the decorated rooms and more than 50,000 lights and candles start Dec. 3.

Self-guided tours typically last about an hour and tour booklets are available at check-in. Self-guided tour admission can be reserved online or paid upon arrival. Guided tours must be reserved online, and typically last one to one and a half hours.

For complete details, visit www.feltmansion.org/holidays.

Public Notices

Continued from Page B6

original Mortgagors, to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS NOMINEE FOR GREEN TREE SERVICING LLC, being a mortgage dated March 10, 2015, and recorded on March 24, 2015 in Liber 3912 Page 40, Allegan County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated December 14, 2021 and recorded on December 14, 2021 in Liber 4708 Page 506, Allegan County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-EIGHT THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY-SIX AND 35/100 DOLLARS ($138,756.35). Said premises are situated in the Township of Overisel, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, and are described as: THAT PART OF THE EAST 1/2 OF THE EAST 1/2 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4, SECTION 12, TOWN 4 NORTH, RANGE 14 WEST, OVERISEL TOWNSHIP, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN DESCRIBED AS: BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION, THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 20' 50" WEST, 506.45 FEET ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SECTION, THENCE SOUTH 0 DEGREES 05 14" EAST 300.0 FEET ALONG THE EAST LINE OF THE WEST 148.0 FEET OF SAID EAST 1/2, OF THE EAST 1/2 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4, THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 20' 50" EAST 505.99 FEET, THENCE NORTH 0 DEGREES 00' WEST 300.0 FEET ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. Street Address: 3616 146th Avenue, Hamilton, Michigan 49419 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: November 27, 2025 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Robert A. Blumberg (P87490), Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 30 North LaSalle St., Suite 3650 Chicago, Illinois, 60602. Telephone: (312) 541-9710 File No.: MI 25 6448
(11-27)(12-18)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 25-65947-DE and JUDGE
Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010
Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250
Estate of Robin Lee Lloyd., Deceased Date of Birth:*10-27-1956
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Robin Lee Lloyd., died 03-05-2024.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Rickie Lee Emmons, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
11-24-2025
Christopher T. Antkoviak P59448
416 Hubbard Street
Allegan, MI 49010
(269)673-8468
Rickie Lee Emmons
507 Delano Street
Allegan, MI 49010
269-464-9250

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on January 15, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Ryan Decker a married man
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC
Date of Mortgage: January 4, 2019
Date of Mortgage Recording: February 8, 2019
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $156,544.12
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Plainwell, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 77 in Orchard Acres No. 2, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 11 of plats, Page 71,
Allegan County Records.
Common street address (if any): 680 Glenview Cir, Plainwell, MI 49080-1365
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: November 27, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1578351
(11-27)(12-18)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 25-65914-DE and JUDGE Hon. Jolene Clearwater
Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010
Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250
Estate of James Harold Friel Date of Birth:*08/10/1938
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, James Harold Friel , died 07/02/2025.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Brenda L. Brown, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
11/13/2025
Blaque W. Hough P-47697
300 South State St., Ste. 11
Zeeland, MI 49464
(616) 212-9336
Brenda L. Brown
1901 S. Fenner Lk. Rd.
Martin, MI 49070
(269)569-2162

TO ALL PERSONS, including: (specify non-custodial parent's name here, if applicable)
whose address is unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:
TAKE NOTICE: JORDI ELIAS LOPEZ has filed a petition for name change.
A name change hearing will be held on TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2025 AT 10:30 AM at FAMILY COURT COURTROOM before Judge Hon. Jolene Clearwater P74848 , to change the name of: JORDI ELIAS LOPEZ to JORDI ELIAS VELASQUEZ LOPEZ

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on January 15, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Victoria Buell, a single woman
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Center LLC
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): None
Date of Mortgage: August 26, 2015
Date of Mortgage Recording: September 16, 2015
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $87,360.50
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Charter Township of Gunplain, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 17 of Gainder and Morrison Assessor's Plat, according to the Plat thereof as recorded in Liber 11 of Plats, Page 3, Allegan County Records.
Common street address (if any): 972 110th Ave, Plainwell, MI 49080-9515
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: November 27, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1578205
(11-27)(12-18)

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PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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CONSTRUCTION
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Babylon Road, Allegan

RELIGION SECTION

A very good friend sent this short prayer to me:

"We do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us. So be swift to love, make haste to be kind, and go in peace to love and serve the Lord."

The words "gladden the hearts of those who travel with us," caught my attention. Sometimes we forget that we have been handed this opportunity. There is so much bad news in our world, it is easy to let it relentlessly wash over us until we think of almost nothing else. It is the political news, medical news, financial news, weather forecasts, and much more. Add to it the scandal and sordid gossip. It burdens us down, and we carry it with us day and night. We forget the good and glad news.

Worse, we sometimes forget that our family and friends, and others around us, are aching to hear something that lifts their spirits and gladdens their heart. Sometimes, even an inane conversation at least temporarily lifts that weight.

It is obvious that we need to raise the spirits of others, and in turn, let them return the favor. It is such an easy thing to do: a telephone call, message, a real letter on paper and in a stamped envelope, a wave, or a brief conversation, is all it takes.

The first part of that sentence, the part about not having much time, is far more daunting. The harsh reality is that the day comes when we will see a friend or loved one for the last time. Sudden and unexpected deaths are always rough on the survivors. Often we begin our response by saying, "But I just talked with her two days ago; I just say him in the grocery store on Saturday."

The passing of a friend or loved one after a long life and a long final illness isn't any easier on us. We can speak about our loss, but we prefer to say nothing about twinge of regret that we waited too long to visit them or make a telephone call or write a note. It is too late, and we might rightfully feel that we let down an old friend, or that their passing did not include the closure of saying thank you and good-bye.

The holiday season is fast upon us. Now is a good time to gladden the hearts of others. This will be a year when a friend has suffered a horrible loss and bewildered how they will survive. It is the year when someone received the news that this will be their last Christmas. Now is the time to gladden hearts all around us

G C Stoppel
Priest Associate
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd,
Allegan, MI

Directory of Area Churches

Allegan Assembly of God
424 DeLano St, Allegan
Pastors Tim Heath & Paul Hays
Church: 673-6577

Allegan Bible Church
412 S. Sherman, Allegan
Pastor Jon Gruss
Church: 673-6831

Allegan Christian Center
700 Ely St., Allegan
Paul Knuckles, Pastor
Church: 673-2921

Allegan County Jail
Chaplain Sarah Montgomery
Phone: 673-0350

Allegan United Methodist Church
Corner Walnut & Trowbridge streets, Allegan
Pastor Julia Humenik
Church: 673-4236;

At the Master's Feet
814 21st St., Otsego
269-694-6897
Paster Ray Brown

Blessed Sacrament Church
110 N. Cedar Street, Allegan
Fr. Simon Manjooran
Church: 673-4455

Bloomingdale Bible Church
210 Chestnut at Pine NW
Bloomin gdale
Ofc. 269-427-2101

Bravo Community Church
5587 113th Ave., Fennville
Pastor Duane Terpstra
616-886-1214

Burnips United Methodist
4241 30th, Burnips
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
616-896-8410

Calvary Church of Wayland (IFCA)
304 S. Main Street, Wayland
Pastor Chad Peckham
ccwayland.org

Casco United Methodist Church
880 66th Street, South Haven
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
269-227-3328
www.cascoumc.org

Chicora Country Chapel
4399 108th Ave., Allegan
Pastor Herb Curry
Phone: 269-370-5834

Christ Community Church
3370 113th Ave., Allegan
www.alleganccc.org ·
(269) 673-2329
Pastor Wally Coots

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
687 Linn Street, Allegan
Church: 673-9617

Church of God - Otsego
112 Kalamazoo St., Otsego
Pastor Stephen Burrow Sr.
269-694-9481
www.otsegocog.com

Corner Bible Church
4001 124th Allegan
673-5995
www.cornerbiblechurch.com

CrossWind Community Church
1632 142nd Avenue
Dorr, MI 49323
616-359-9013
Pastor Tommy Boutell

Dunningville Reformed Church
2559 M-40, Allegan
Church: 751-5894
Pastor Eric Burrows-Stone
dunningville.org/index.html

East Martin Christian Reformed Church
510-118th Ave., Martin
269-672-5746
www.eastmartincrc.org

Epiphany Lutheran Church (LCMS)
4219 Parklane, Dorr
www.epiphanydorr.org
Sunday service at 9:15 a.m.,
Bible Study and Sunday School following

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
101 North Walnut St, Allegan
Office: 673-2254

Faith Baptist Church
2846 125th Ave., Allegan
John Looman, Pastor
673-5040 1-888-354-3272

Fennville Assembly of God
5897 124th Ave.
Fennville, MI 49408
269-561-2683

Fennville United Methodist Church
5849 124th St., Fennville
269-561-5048
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

First Presbyterian Church
200 Cutler Street, Allegan
Church: 673-4631
www.fpcallegan.org
10:00 service time.

First Baptist Church
1290 32nd St., Allegan
Service at 10:00am
Pastors Nathan Smith & Brendon Bayley
www.fbcallegan.com

First Baptist Church of Otsego
247 E Allegan St., Otsego
(269) 694-4160
firstbaptist@fbcotsego.org

First Church of God
1313 Marshall Street, Allegan
269 673-3881
www.pathtohim.org
Pastor, Tim Secord

First Congregational Church
323 Cutler Street, Allegan
Church Office: 673-3139
Pastor Todd Wagner

First Congregational Church
120 W. Morrell St., Otsego
269-694-6085
Pastor Lenny Luchetti

First Presbyterian Church of Plainwell
303 East Bridge St.
Plainwell, MI 49080
685-5990

Friendship Bible Church
104 Baker St., Hopkins, MI
Pastor Chris Cronk and Worship Pastor Tony Caldarona
Office 793-7929

Ganges Baptist Church
6577 122nd Avenue, Fennville
269-543-4203
11AM each Sunday

Ganges United Methodist Church
2218 68th St
Fennville MI 49408
Phone 269-543-3581
Lay Minister - Marcia A. Tucker

Grace Church of Hamilton
3690 Lincoln Rd. P.o. Box 97
Hamilton Mi 49419
269.264.4900
Gracechurchofhamilton@gmail.com

Hope Lutheran Church
290 12th St., Plainwell
(269) 685-1348
Pastor Nicole Smith
Worship 10:30am; S. School 9:15am

Hopkins Community Reformed Church
2142 128th Ave., Hopkins
(269) 793-7361
hopkinscommunitychurch.net

Hopkins United Methodist Church
322 N. Maple St., Hopkins
(269) 793-7323
Pastor Kelsey French

Horseshoe Community Bible Church
4950 104th Avenue, Grand Junction
269-521-4580 ·
Pastor Don Miller

Immanuel Lutheran Church
631 Grand Street, Allegan
Church: 673-3335
Rev. Christopher Laughlin

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness
2199 Taft Road, Allegan
Phone: 673-6179

Living Waters Community Church
5458 M-89, Fennville
Service: 10:30 Sundays
Pastor Andrew Leach
269-561-5277

Martin Reformed Church
1073 W. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor: Matthew Hendricks
672-5596

Martin United Methodist Church
969 E. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor Margaret Stoken
269-672-7097
www.martinumc.org

Merson Church
3313 102nd Ave., Gobles, MI
Office: 673-5274
www.mersonchurch.org

Montage Ministries
"A Community in Worship"
Griswold Auditorium
Tuesdays 6:30-8:00pm

Monterey Center United Methodist Church
3022 130th Ave.
Monterey Center, 49328
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
793-7288

Mt. Calvary M.B. Church
5425 105th Ave., Pullman
Pastor Everett Belue
269-382-3405

New Hope Baptist Church
2011 Lincoln Road (M-40 N)
Pastor Tadd Butler
673-1938

Northbridge Church
8824 Douglas, Kalamazoo
269-385-4378 ·
www.northbridge.cc

Northpoint Ministries
04077 M40 (M40/CR390)
Gobles MI · 269.628.9199
Pastor Gary Lounsberry
Sunday Worship: 11am

OAKLAND CRC
4460 38th Street
Hamilton. Mi. 49419
616 688 5290
Pastor Mark Vande Zande

Otsego United Methodist Church
223 E Allegan St. Otsego MI
10:00 a.m. Worship
Reverend Dan Minor
Otsegomethodistchurch.org

Pathfinder North Church
(A Global Methodist Church)
532 M 89, Otsego, MI 49078
9:30 Fellowship 10:00 Worship
Rev Ron Hansen
Pathfindernorth.com

Peace Lutheran Church
805 S. Wilmott St., Otsego
www.peaceotsego.com
694-6104

Pearl United Methodist Church
1689 56th St., Fennville
269-561-5048 Worship 9:30 am
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

Pentecostal Church of God I.M
2281 57th St, Fennville
Wed/Miércoles @ 7:00 pm
Sunday/Domingo @ 10:00 am
Worship Service @ 11:00am
Rev. Jeremias & Maribel Gaytan
231) 923-6887 - (231) 923-6959
Email: gytnj@yahoo.com

Plainwell Church of Christ
911 James St.
Plainwell, Michigan 49080

Plainwell First Baptist Church
404 W. Bridge St., Plainwell
(269) 685-8888
Pastor George Osborn

Plainwell First United Methodist Church
200 Park St. Plainwell
269-685-5113
www.fumcplainwell.com

Rectify Church
247 N. Main St., Allegan
616-218-1556
Pastor Sarah Montgomery

Redemption Place Church of God
1900 M-40, Allegan
Pastor Deborah Lesher
Church: 269-355-1167

Refreshing Springs Ministries
201 Briggs St., Allegan
616-510-7416
Pastor Adrian Hall

River of Life Church
605 W. Allegan, Otsego
269-672-9904
www.alleganchurch.com

Seventh Day Adventist Church
229 Cutler Street, Allegan
Dan Rachor, Pastor
Church: 673-3284

Shelbyville United Methodist Church
938 124th Ave., Shelbyville
672-7097 - Church office
Pastor Margaret Stoken

South Monterey United Methodist Church
Pastor Kelsey French
Church: 793-7323

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church
11850 9 Mile Rd., Shelbyville
269-664-4345
Service: Sundays 9:30 am

Saint John's Church Of God In Christ
716 Academy St, Allegan
Rev. Jeremiah Johnson Sr.
Phone: 673-8590—673-3007

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
1764 34th St., Allegan
Pastor Ronald Kruse 673-2079
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

St. Margaret's Catholic Church
766 S. Farmer St., Otsego
269-694-6311

Third Coast Community Church
www.thirdcoastff.org |
269.857.5633
6069 Blue Star Hwy, Saugatuck, MI 49453
Sunday Worship: 10:00am

Trowbridge Community Church
355 26th Street, Otsego
Pastor Mykel Hall, Pastor
Church: 673-5502

Unity Baptist Church
35 14 12th St. Wayland
Pastor Kelly Ryan
Cell # (269) 330-2217

Watson Bible Church
1626 116th St., Otsego
Pastor Tim Morris
672-2166

Wayland Community Church
502 West Superior, Wayland
(616) 877-6134
Worship Sunday @ 10:30am

UP Uni Pac "Contract Packaging Specialist" 809 Airway Dr. – Highland Industrial Park 269-673-8488

RAPA Rapa Electric, Inc. 1173 Lincoln Rd., Allegan 673-3155/673-3157

Waanders Concrete Co. Ready-Mix Concrete 3169 Babylon Rd., Allegan 673-6352

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Ted's Auto Body Shop, Inc 892 34th St., Allegan 269-673-2309 Fax: 269-686-8508 tedsab1@gmail.com

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